ATLAS
LOVE ROMANCES
OCT.
NO. 32
LOVE MEMOIRS TAKEN FROM TRUE LIFE!
Love Romances
10¢
YOUR HEART WILL SING WHEN... "DIANE FINDS HER DREAM MAN!"
ON SALE MONTHLY

DO YOU TAKE THIS MAN TO HAVE AND TO HOLD FROM THIS DAY FORWARD, FOR BETTER, FOR WORSE, FOR RICHER, FOR POORER, IN SICKNESS AND IN HEALTH, TO LOVE AND TO CHERISH, TILL DEATH DO YOU PART? WHEN A GIRL SAYS, "I DO" TO THAT VOW, SHE SHOULD BE SURE THAT SHE'LL HAVE...
I STILL CAN'T SEE HOW SYLVIA CAN GO THRU WITH THE MARRIAGE, GLORIA ...SHE DOESN'T LOVE TOM!
OH, JANE... DON'T BE SO OLD-FASHIONED!
THE GIRLS WOULD HEADACHES...BUT IF OULD BEGIN...
OH, ROGER, PLEASE HELP LI'L OL' ME! I-I FEEL FAINT!
No Regrets
FROM THE DIARY OF ONE OF OUR READERS, JANE WILSON, COMES THIS TRUE STORY OF HER LOVE ROMANCE... A STORY EVERY GIRL IN LOVE SHOULD READ!
ILLUSTRATED BY Jay Scott Pike
LOVE ROMANCES #32
IF MARRYING FOR LOVE IS OLD-FASHIONED, THEN I'LL TAKE THE HOOP-SKIRT DAYS ANY TIME!
YOU'RE WELCOME TO THEM, DEAR! I'M ON SYLVIA'S SIDE...MARRY FOR MONEY...LOVE CAN COME LATER!
AND WHAT IF IT DOESN'T?
THEN A GIRL'S STILL GOT THE MONEY TO KEEP HER HAPPY!
I WATCHED SYLVIA AND TOM'S LIPS MEET IN THEIR FIRST MARRIAGE KISS ...AND SOME WORDS OF SIR WALTER SCOTT WENT SPINNING THRU MY THOUGHTS...
"O, WHAT A TANGLED WEB WE WEAVE WHEN FIRST WE PRACTICE TO DECEIVE!

YES, AND IN THAT ORDER ACCORDING TO YOU! BUT THE IMPORTANT THING'S MISSING...A LITTLE ITEM CALLED L-O-V-E!
THE BIG THING CALLED M-O-N-E-Y WILL COMPENSATE FOR THAT! IF YOU KEEP WAITING FOR LOVE, JANE, YOU'LL END UP EITHER AN OLD MAID...OR WORKING TO SUPPORT A HUSBAND!
BE SMART, LIKE SYLVIA! FORGET ABOUT LOVE! MARRY A MAN WITH MONEY! YOU'VE HAD PLENTY OF CHANCES ALREADY...DON'T PASS UP ANY MORE, OR THEY'LL PASS YOU UP!
LET THEM ...AS LONG AS LOVE DOESN'T PASS ME UP!
AND I DIDN'T SIT AT HOME WAITING FOR LOVE TO COME LOOKING FOR ME...I WENT OUT LOOKING FOR IT...
JANE, WHY DON'T YOU MARRY ME? I'VE ASKED YOU A DOZEN TIMES! YOU COULD DO WORSE...I'M RATHER HANDSOME...I WEAR A TUX WELL... AND MY OLD MAN'S LOADED WITH DOUGH!
ALL VERY ATTRACTIVE QUALIFICATIONS, BARRY!
...BUT COME OUT INTO THE GARDEN AND I'LL DEMONSTRATE WHY I WON'T WALK DOWN THE MIDDLE AISLE WITH YOU!
HUH? OH... OKAY!
KISS ME!
THE PLEASURE'S ALL MINE!
SO?
SO NOTHING, BARRY! YOUR KISSES DO NOTHING TO ME BUT SMEAR MY LIPSTICK!
OH, I GET IT! THE KIND LADY IS TELLING ME SHE DOESN'T LOVE ME!
THAT'S RIGHT, BARRY ...AND NO LOVE... NO MARRIAGE!

BUT MY GIRL FRIENDS HAD NO SUCH RULES ABOUT MARRIAGE! WHEN THEY SPIED AN ELIGIBLE MALE AT A COCKTAIL PARTY, THEY'D SWARM AROUND HIM LIKE BEES AROUND A HIVE... AND THEIR FIRST INTEREST WAS HOW MUCH MONEY HE HAD...

...AND THIS, GIRLS, IS MR. ROGER VAN PLEET... THE ROGER VAN PLEET!

OH, THE COSMETIC KING! THE MAN WHO MAKES ALL THAT NICE MONEY MAKING US GIRLS LOOK NICE... HOW WONDERFUL!

IF THE MAN DIDN'T HAVE MONEY, THE GIRLS WOULD SUDDENLY DEVELOPE SPLITTING HEADACHES...BUT IF HE WAS RICH... THE CONTEST WOULD BEGIN...

IT'S NICE AND COOL OUT ON THE PATIO, ROGER!

YOU'D RATHER DANCE WITH ME, WOULDN'T YOU, ROGER?

OH, ROGER, PLEASE HELP LI'L OL' ME! I-I FEEL FAINT!

LOVE DIDN'T MATTER TO THEM ...AND AS THE MONTHS PASSED I SAW MANY OF THEM MARRY FOR MONEY! THERE WAS REGINA...

AND SHIRLEY...

AND THELMA...

AND DOREEN...

JUST MAR

AT EVERY WEDDING, AS I WATCHED MY GIRL FRIENDS KISS THEIR HUSBANDS...I WONDERED IF PERHAPS I WAS BEING FOOLISH FOR WAITING FOR LOVE BEFORE I MARRIED...

PERHAPS THE IMPORTANT THING IS TO GET MARRIED... JUST AS GLORIA SAYS...AND THEN WAIT FOR LOVE TO COME!

WELL, JANE, THERE GOES ANOTHER ONE OF THE SMART GIRLS...HAPPILY HOOKED TO A FAT BANKROLL! TRUE, THE HUSBAND ISN'T MUCH TO LOOK AT...BUT I'LL BET HIS BANKBOOKS MAKE MIGHTY FINE READING ON COLD WINTER NIGHTS!

PERHAPS YOU'RE RIGHT, GLORIA... PERHAPS YOU AND THE GIRLS DO HAVE THE RIGHT IDEA!

AND SO AT THE NEXT COCKTAIL PARTY WHEN AN ELIGIBLE BACHELOR SHOWED UP, GLORIA MADE SURE I WAS IN THE PACK OF FEMALES SWARMING AROUND HIM...

OH, GLORIA, SOMEHOW I...I DON'T FEEL RIGHT ABOUT THIS!

DON'T BE SILLY, JANE! IT'S THE ONLY WAY TO GET A HUSBAND...AND THIS ONE'S A HONEY! HE'S TALL, HANDSOME...NOW IF HE'S RICH...

THIS IS CARLOS MANATELLE...A COLLEGE FRIEND OF MINE FROM SOUTH AMERICA! HE CAME UP HERE TO WORK IN DAD'S AUTO FACTORY!

WORK? COME ON, JANE...HE WOULDN'T MAKE A GOOD HUSBAND...HE'S POOR!

THE PACK DISPERSED QUICKLY AFTER THAT...BUT I STAYED! IT WAS AS IF HIS EYES HAD ASKED ME TO REMAIN! I STOOD THERE OBEYING THEM...ADMIRING HIM...

WELL, IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE STUCK WITH ME FOR THIS DANCE! MAY I?

OH...OH, YES, OF COURSE!

AS HIS ARM CURVED AROUND MY WAIST, MY HEART BEGAN A WILD BEAT, AND WHEN HE PLACED HIS CHEEK AGAINST MINE, I CLOSED MY EYES AND DREAMED MYSELF A PIECE OF HEAVEN RIGHT THERE ON EARTH!

YOU LOOK VERY TEMPTING AND HAPPY THAT WAY... DREAMING OF SOMETHING NICE?

HMMM...VERY NICE!

AFTER THAT DANCE WE WALKED IN THE MOONLIGHT...

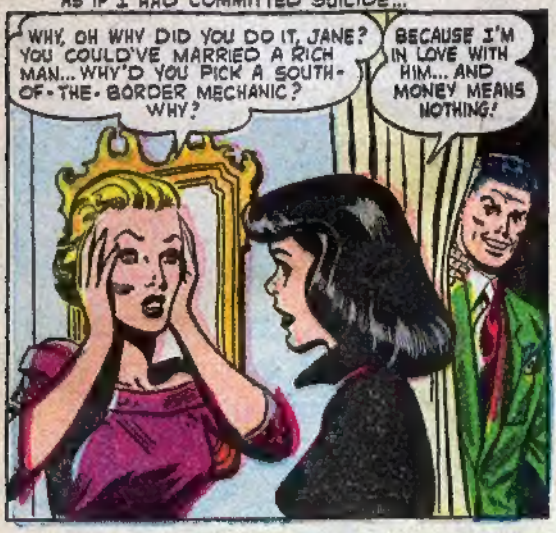
WE STOPPED BY THE LAKE...

AND THE MAGIC OF THAT NIGHT SEEMED TO DRAW US TOGETHER...

AND WHEN HIS LIPS PRESSED AGAINST MINE, THERE WAS NO DOUBT ABOUT IT... *THIS WAS LOVE!*

WHEN I TOLD GLORIA ABOUT IT THE NEXT DAY, SHE WAS FURIOUS...
YOU SILLY LITTLE GOOSE... FALLING FOR THAT SHEIK'S SLICK TALK! HE'S NOTHING BUT A...A MECHANIC!
I DON'T CARE IF HE'S A CONDUCTOR ON THE TROLLEY! I LOVE HIM!
DON'T BE A NINNY, JANE! WITH YOUR LOOKS YOU CAN SNAG YOURSELF A RICH MAN...A MILLIONAIRE EVEN... AND CAN HAVE EVERYTHING A GIRL'S HEART DESIRES!
EVERYTHING BUT LOVE...AND THAT'S WHAT I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR ALL THESE YEARS!
JUST THE GLORIOUS FEELING OF BEING IN LOVE IS WORTH ALL THE MONEY IN THE WORLD! I WAS FOOLISH FOR EVER DOUBTING MYSELF AND THINKING THAT YOU GIRLS WERE RIGHT!
I'LL ADMIT THAT MOST OF THE MARRIAGES FOR MONEY HAVEN'T WORKED OUT...BUT AT LEAST THE GIRLS HAVE BANK ACCOUNTS LEFT! WHAT'LL YOU HAVE WHEN LOVE COOLS OFF?
OUR LOVE WAS PERMANENT...I WAS SURE OF THAT! AND CARLOS AND I SPENT ALL OUR FREE TIME TOGETHER! I WATCHED HIS PENNIES FOR HIM...NO EXPENSIVE DATES ...BUT DATES FILLED WITH FUN, LAUGHTER AND LOVE...
ALL THOSE PENNIES YOU'VE BEEN SAVING FOR ME HAVE ADDED UP, JANE...SO I RAIDED THE PIGGIE BANK AND GOT YOU THIS AS A REWARD!
OH, CARLOS... A RING...AN ENGAGEMENT RING!

WHEN WE BROKE THE GOOD NEWS TO GLORIA SHE TOOK IT AS IF I HAD COMMITTED SUICIDE...


WHY, OH WHY DID YOU DO IT, JANE? YOU COULD'VE MARRIED A RICH MAN... WHY'D YOU PICK A SOUTH-OF-THE-BORDER MECHANIC? WHY?
BECAUSE I'M IN LOVE WITH HIM... AND MONEY MEANS NOTHING!

DON'T SAY THAT, HONEY...BECAUSE WE'VE GOT PLENTY OF NOTHING! SOME OF WHICH BOUGHT THIS FOR US...OUR HOME IN SOUTH AMERICA AFTER WE'RE MARRIED!
OH, CARLOS IT... IT'S A DREAM ...BUT... BUT HOW?

MY FATHER OWNS ALMOST HALF OF BRAZIL...AND WHEN HE DECIDED TO BUILD AUTOMOBILES IN SOUTH AMERICA HE SENT ME HERE TO STUDY AMERICAN PRODUCTION METHODS! AND THE AUTOMOBILE BUSINESS IN RIO WILL BE HIS WEDDING PRESENT TO US!
OH...OH, MY HEAVENS! BUT WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY SO WHEN YOU FIRST CAME HERE?

BECAUSE MY FATHER WARNED ME THAT MANY AMERICAN GIRLS LOOK FOR MEN WITH MONEY, SO I TOLD MY FRIEND TO TELL NO ONE THAT I WAS THE SON OF THE RICHEST MAN IN SOUTH AMERICA! I WANTED A GIRL WHO COULD LOVE ME FOR MYSELF...JUST AS JANE DOES!
OH-H-H-H!

ALL THAT WAS A GREAT SURPRISE TO ME...BUT THE NICEST SURPRISE OF ALL WAS THE BEAUTIFUL WEDDING CARLOS' FAMILY ARRANGED FOR US IN A SMALL SPANISH CHAPEL OUTSIDE OF RIO...

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD FROM THIS DAY FORWARD, FOR BETTER, FOR WORSE, FOR RICHER, FOR POORER, IN SICKNESS AND IN HEALTH, TO LOVE AND TO CHERISH, TILL DEATH DO YOU PART?
I DO!

I TOOK THE VOW...AND I MARRIED FOR LOVE. SO I KNOW THERE WILL BE...*NO REGRETS!*

ATLAS FOR THE BEST IN ROMANCE LOOK FOR THE ATLAS SEAL ON THE COVER! ATLAS

Skinny Girls Don't Have OOMPH!

It takes those extra lbs. of solid flesh to "bring out" your natural curves

If you're otherwise healthy but skinny, scrawny, rundown and lbs. underweight, try correcting this common mistake in eating.

THERE are three essential substances that many thin, scrawny and undernourished girls may fail to get in sufficient quantity from the food they eat. These substances are Vitamin B_1, calcium phosphate and iron. If, like thousands of others, you are underweight without organic cause . . . never seem to gain a pound . . . are so thin that you look gangling and gawky from insufficient amounts of these precious elements, don't get discouraged.

You may find that by correcting this simple mistake in eating you can easily add firm solid flesh . . . extra alluring pounds that help bring out those natural eye-catching curves. A simple and easy way is to try the amazing new product called Numal that supplies, in significant amounts, the Vitamin B_1, calcium phosphate and iron needed in the daily diet. Plus a food that in itself is a great help in adding extra pounds.

Take 1 heaping teaspoonful of Numal 3 times a day. It is pleasant, assimilable and easy to take. You will get the equivalent in Vitamin B_1 content of 34 cakes of average moist baker's yeast . . . the iron equivalent of 15 pounds of tomatoes or 1⅔ pounds of spinach or 9 pounds of boiled beets...and the calcium equivalent of ⅓ths pint of fresh cow's milk, the phosphorus content of 1 glass.

Remember, if you don't get a sufficient quantity of Vitamin B_1 in your daily diet, you may suffer loss of appetite. And without sufficient iron, the element that helps build rich red blood, you may be rundown, pale, weak and listless. You need calcium phosphate for sound teeth and sturdy bones.

SKINNY MEN ARE NOT ATTRACTIVE EITHER

. . . a skinny, scrawny body is no asset in social or business life. Give NUMAL a chance to build you up, put firm flesh on you.

Numal Must Please You or No Cost

So if you are skinny, gangling and bony from lack of these precious nutrients, don't wait any longer. Get Numal today. You will want those extra pounds that "bring out" your natural eye-catching curves. Take Numal faithfully for a week. See if you can't actually feel the difference . . . gain weight and better color. If after this short period you honestly don't feel Numal has benefited you, just return the bottle for a complete refund of your money. Numal costs but a few cents a day to use.

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NOTE: If you want to save all postal charges enclose $2 check, money order or cash. We will pay all postal charges. Same money-back guarantee.

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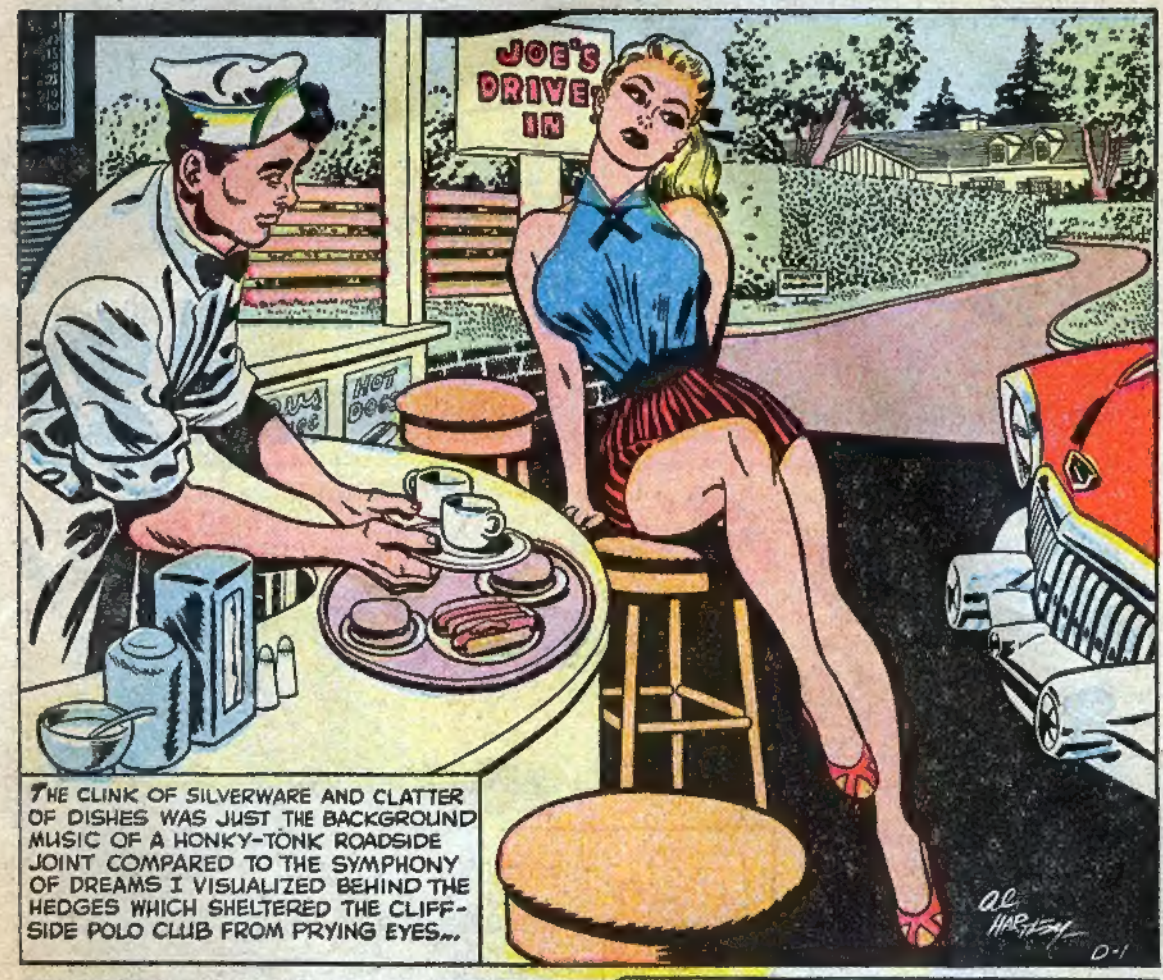
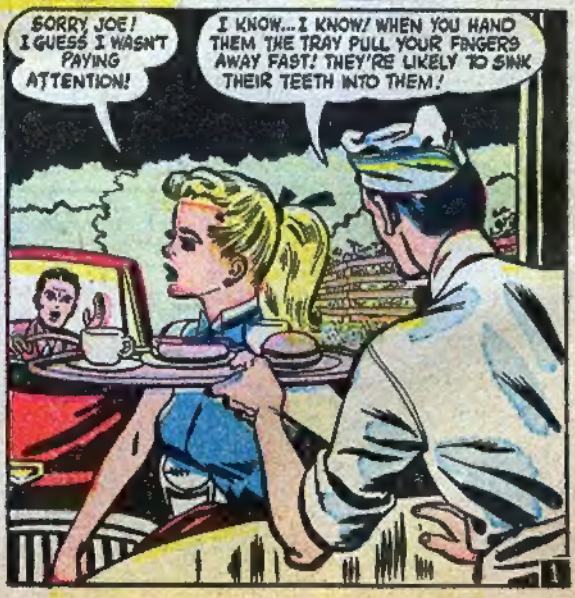
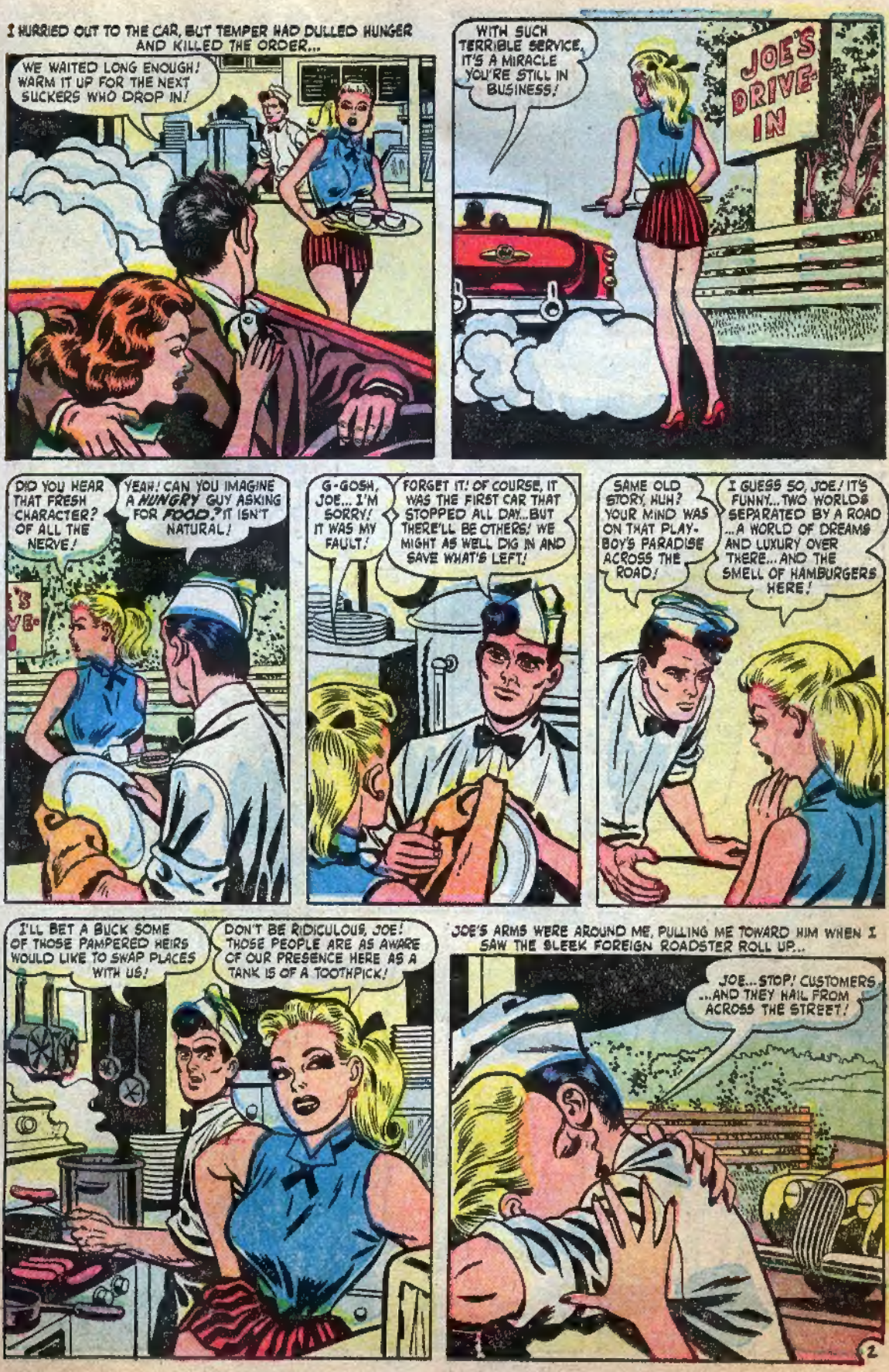
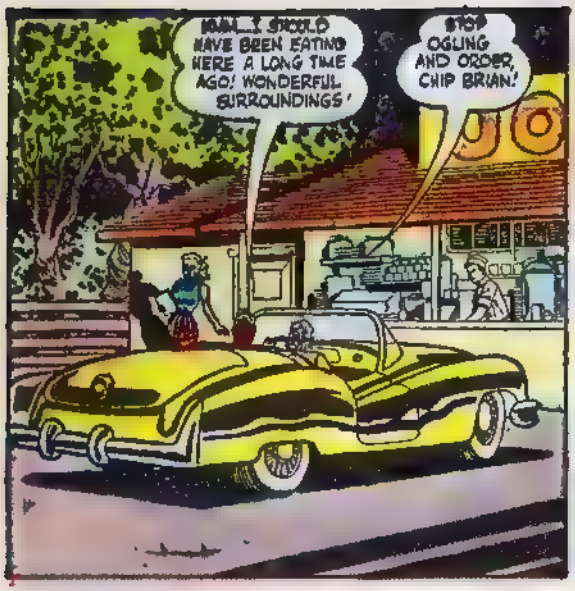
THE OTHER WORLD


JOE'S DRIVE IN
HOT DOGS
THE CLINK OF SILVERWARE AND CLATTER OF DISHES WAS JUST THE BACKGROUND MUSIC OF A HONKY-TONK ROADSIDE JOINT COMPARED TO THE SYMPHONY OF DREAMS I VISUALIZED BEHIND THE HEDGES WHICH SHELTERED THE CLIFF-SIDE POLO CLUB FROM PRYING EYES...
A.C. HARTLEY
D-1

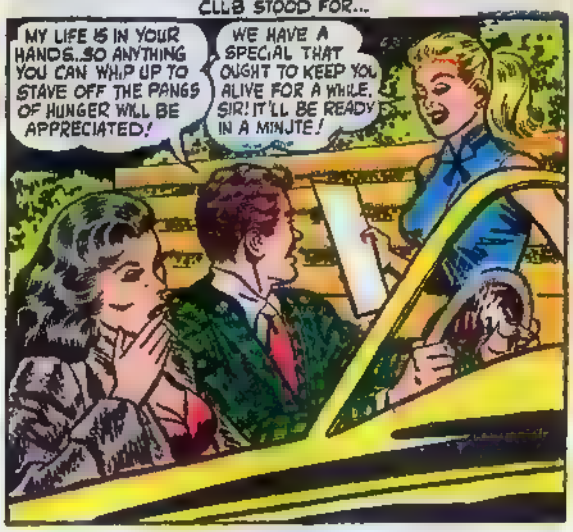
THE IMPATIENT CLAMOR OF A HORN AND JOE SMITH'S PLEADING VOICE SHATTERED THE DREAM...
HEY, ANNE! GIVE THE CUSTOMERS A BREAK, HUH! THEY'RE SCREAMING THEIR HEADS OFF FOR THIS TRAY!
HONK!
HOT DOGS


SORRY JOE! I GUESS I WASN'T PAYING ATTENTION!
I KNOW... I KNOW! WHEN YOU HAND THEM THE TRAY PULL YOUR FINGERS AWAY FAST! THEY'RE LIKELY TO SINK THEIR TEETH INTO THEM!


I HURRIED OUT TO THE CAR, BUT TEMPER HAD DULLED HUNGER AND KILLED THE ORDER...
WE WAITED LONG ENOUGH! WARM IT UP FOR THE NEXT SUCKERS WHO DROP IN!
WITH SUCH TERRIBLE SERVICE, IT'S A MIRACLE YOU'RE STILL IN BUSINESS!
JOE'S DRIVE-IN
DID YOU HEAR THAT FRESH CHARACTER? OF ALL THE NERVE!
YEAH! CAN YOU IMAGINE A HUNGRY GUY ASKING FOR FOOD," IT ISN'T NATURAL!
G-GOSH, JOE... I'M SORRY! IT WAS MY FAULT!
FORGET IT! OF COURSE, IT WAS THE FIRST CAR THAT STOPPED ALL DAY...BUT THERE'LL BE OTHERS! WE MIGHT AS WELL DIG IN AND SAVE WHAT'S LEFT!
SAME OLD STORY, HUH? YOUR MIND WAS ON THAT PLAY-BOY'S PARADISE ACROSS THE ROAD!
I GUESS SO, JOE! IT'S FUNNY...TWO WORLDS SEPARATED BY A ROAD ...A WORLD OF DREAMS AND LUXURY OVER THERE... AND THE SMELL OF HAMBURGERS HERE!
I'LL BET A BUCK SOME OF THOSE PAMPERED HEIRS WOULD LIKE TO SWAP PLACES WITH US!
DON'T BE RIDICULOUS, JOE! THOSE PEOPLE ARE AS AWARE OF OUR PRESENCE HERE AS A TANK IS OF A TOOTHPICK!
JOE'S ARMS WERE AROUND ME, PULLING ME TOWARD HIM WHEN I SAW THE SLEEK FOREIGN ROADSTER ROLL UP...
JOE...STOP! CUSTOMERS ...AND THEY HAIL FROM ACROSS THE STREET!



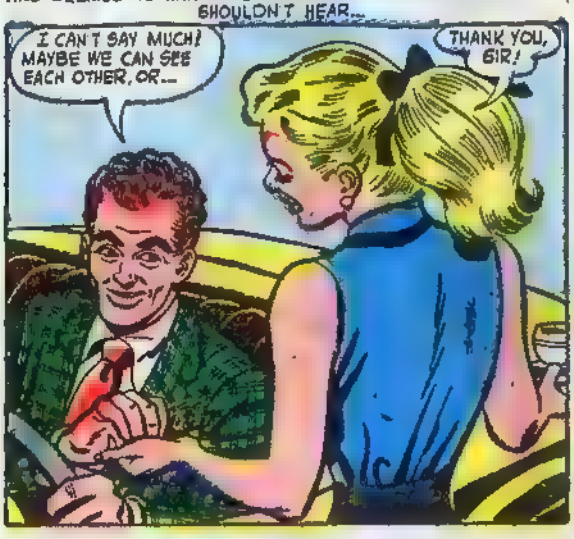
IT WASN'T LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT...JUST A SILLY IMPULSE THAT CHIP BRIAN WAS THE SYMBOL OF EVERYTHING THE CLIFFSIDE POLO CLUB STOOD FOR...


MY LIFE IS IN YOUR HANDS...SO ANYTHING YOU CAN WHIP UP TO STAVE OFF THE PANGS OF HUNGER WILL BE APPRECIATED!
WE HAVE A SPECIAL THAT OUGHT TO KEEP YOU ALIVE FOR A WHILE, SIR! IT'LL BE READY IN A MINUTE!

HE ATE WITH THE ZEST OF A HUNGRY KID, AND MY FEARS THAT THE PEOPLE OF THE "OTHER WORLD" WERE DIFFERENT WERE DISPELLED...

HE CERTAINLY DOESN'T EAT LIKE THE PAMPERED, ANEMIC PLAYBOYS YOU'RE ALWAYS TALKING ABOUT, JOE!
NOPE! HE EATS LIKE A WOLF AND ACTS LIKE ONE! JUST A NORMAL MALE I SUPPOSE!

WHEN I CAME FOR THE TRAY HE PRESSED A BILL INTO MY HAND AND SEEMED TO WANT TO SAY SOMETHING HIS COMPANION SHOULDN'T HEAR...



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39c each
5 for $1.69

Assorted colors and styles in Silks — Crepes — Rayons — Acetates.

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$1.89 each
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All sizes with or without fur collars. These are in excellent condition, slight repairs needed.

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Good quality Leathers and Fabrics. WILL GIVE MANY MONTHS OF GOOD WEAR.

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ITEM	SIZE	PRICE

☐ Give Hose size if Order is $5.00 or more

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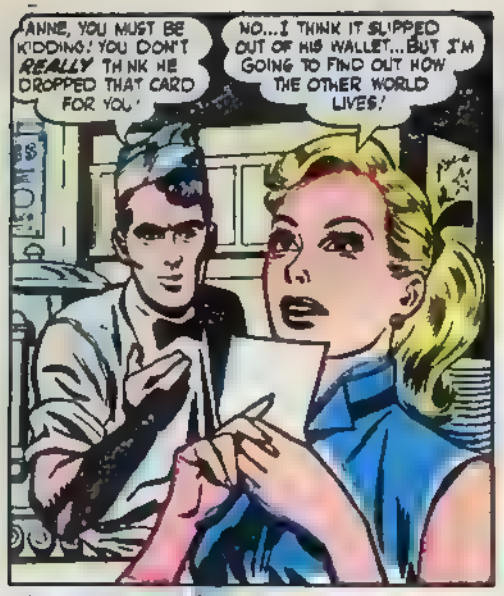
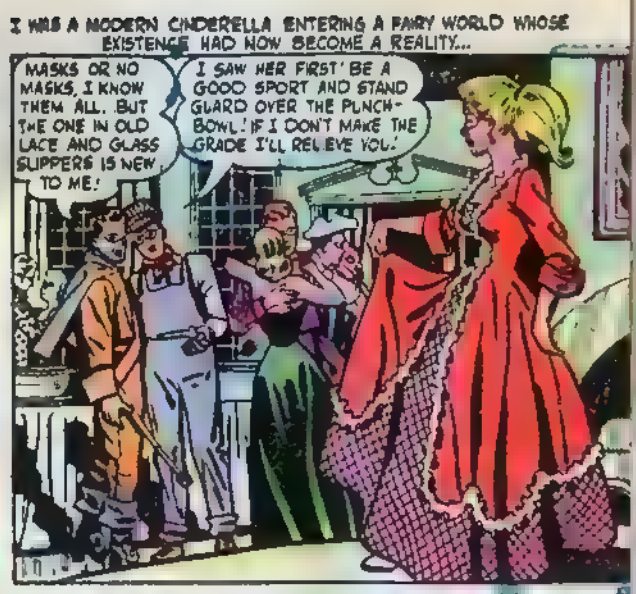
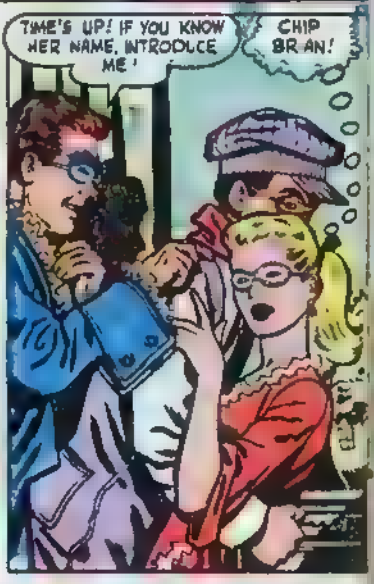
*No Order accepted without $1.00 deposit

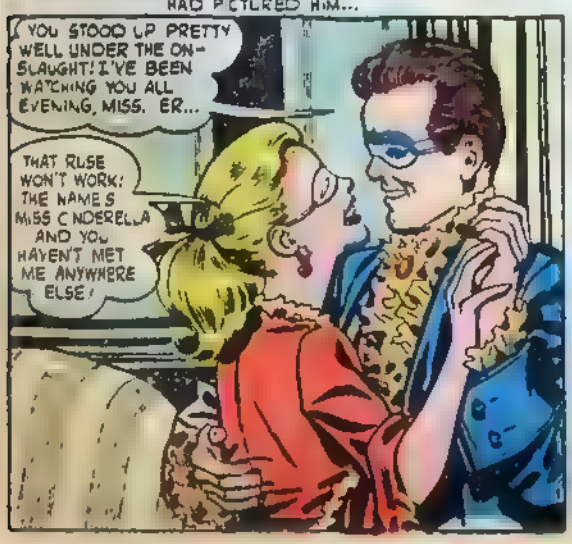

ANNE, YOU MUST BE KIDDING! YOU DON'T REALLY THINK HE DROPPED THAT CARD FOR YOU!
NO...I THINK IT SLIPPED OUT OF HIS WALLET...BUT I'M GOING TO FIND OUT HOW THE OTHER WORLD LIVES!


I WAS A MODERN CINDERELLA ENTERING A FAIRY WORLD WHOSE EXISTENCE HAD NOW BECOME A REALITY...
MASKS OR NO MASKS, I KNOW THEM ALL. BUT THE ONE IN OLD LACE AND GLASS SLIPPERS IS NEW TO ME!
I SAW HER FIRST! BE A GOOD SPORT AND STAND GUARD OVER THE PUNCH-BOWL! IF I DON'T MAKE THE GRADE I'LL RELIEVE YOU!

I NEVER BELIEVED IN FAIRY TALES UNTIL TONIGHT! CINDERELLA, I'LL BE YOUR PRINCE OR YOUR FOOTMAN UNTIL THE CLOCK STRIKES TWELVE!
CHOOSE YOUR FATE, SIR! I INTEND TO BE DANCING HERE LONG AFTER YOU'VE BEEN TURNED BACK INTO A MOUSE.. OR A PUMPKIN!

CINDERELLA NEVER HAD IT SO GOOD! I DANCED WITH THEM ALL, MY EARS TUNED TO THE MUSIC AND GAIETY.. DEAF TO THE WHISPERED NONSENSE ..
STAY ANONYMOUS IF YOU WANT TO, BUT LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!
I'M ENJOYING MYSELF HERE!

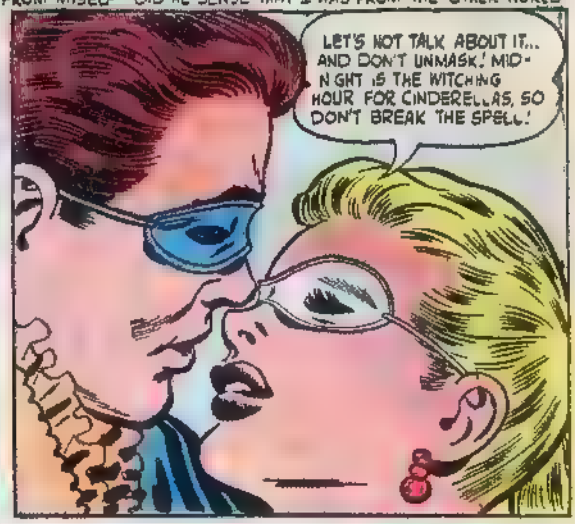

TIME'S UP! IF YOU KNOW HER NAME, INTRODUCE ME!
CHIP BRIAN!


CHIP BRIAN WAS BY FAR THE MOST INTERESTING MAN OF THE EVENING! HE WAS SUAVE GAY AND ROMANTIC...JUST THE WAY I HAD PICTURED HIM...
YOU STOOD UP PRETTY WELL UNDER THE ONSLAUGHT! I'VE BEEN WATCHING YOU ALL EVENING, MISS. ER...
THAT RUSE WON'T WORK! THE NAME'S MISS CINDERELLA AND YOU HAVEN'T MET ME ANYWHERE ELSE!

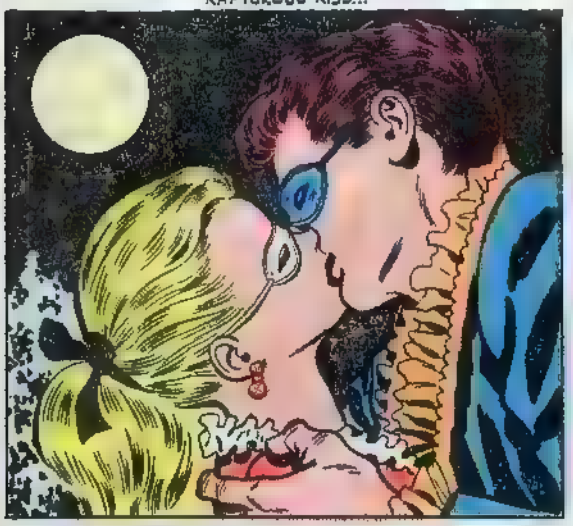
WHEN CHIP BRIAN STARTS EDGING 'EM TOWARD THE TERRACE, THE MASQUERADE'S OVER!
I NEVER SAW HER AT THE CLUB BEFORE! I WONDER WHO SHE IS? SHE'S A LOT WARMER THAN THE ICY DEBS I KNOW

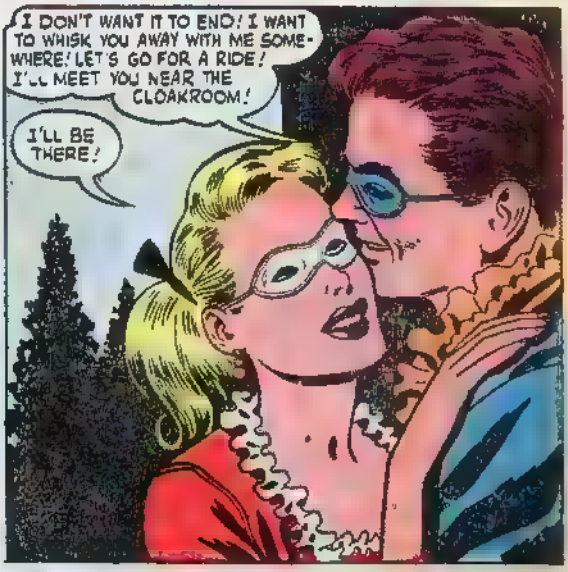
YOU'RE DIFFERENT SOMEHOW! I SUPPOSE EVERY MAN YOU DANCED WITH TOLD YOU THAT!
BEING DIFFERENT COULD BE BAD OR GOOD, DEPENDING ON YOUR POINT OF VIEW! HOW DO YOU MEAN.?

SUDDENLY, I BECAME AFRAID! WHAT SORT OF DIFFERENCE COULD THERE BE? WHERE THE WOMEN HE KNEW SO MARKEDLY DIFFERENT FROM MYSELF? DID HE SENSE THAT I WAS FROM THE 'OTHER WORLD?"

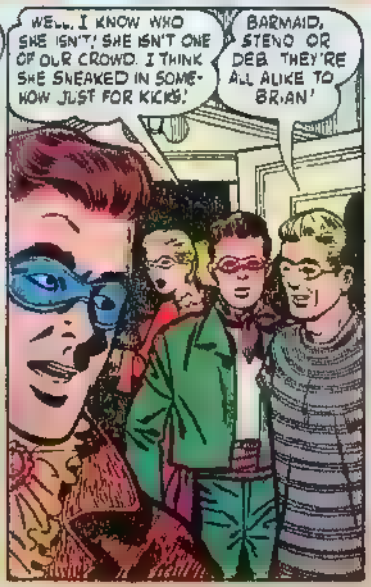


I WAS IN HIS ARMS AND HIS SEARCHING LIPS FOUND MINE IN A RAPTUROUS KISS...




I DON'T WANT IT TO END! I WANT TO WHISK YOU AWAY WITH ME SOMEWHERE! LET'S GO FOR A RIDE! I'LL MEET YOU NEAR THE CLOAKROOM!
I'LL BE THERE!

THE CAT IS ABOUT TO EAT THE CANARY! HOW DID YOU DO IT HOUDINI?
A GOOD MAGICIAN NEVER SPILLS HIS TRICKS! TECHNIQUE MY FRIEND... TECHNIQUE. I DON'T KNOW WHO SHE IS, AND I DON'T CARE!


WELL, I KNOW WHO SHE ISN'T! SHE ISN'T ONE OF OUR CROWD. I THINK SHE SNEAKED IN SOMEHOW JUST FOR KICKS!
BARMAID, STENO OR DEB THEY'RE ALL ALIKE TO BRIAN!

BARMAID OR STENO, MAYBE, BUT SHE'S NO DEB!
POOR CINDERELLA! SHE GOT A WHIFF OF HIGH SOCIETY AND NOW HER PRINCE CHARMING IS TAKING HER BACK TO THE SLUMS

IT DIDN'T TAKE ME LONG TO DO WHAT I WANTED TO DO, AND SAY WHAT I HAD TO ..

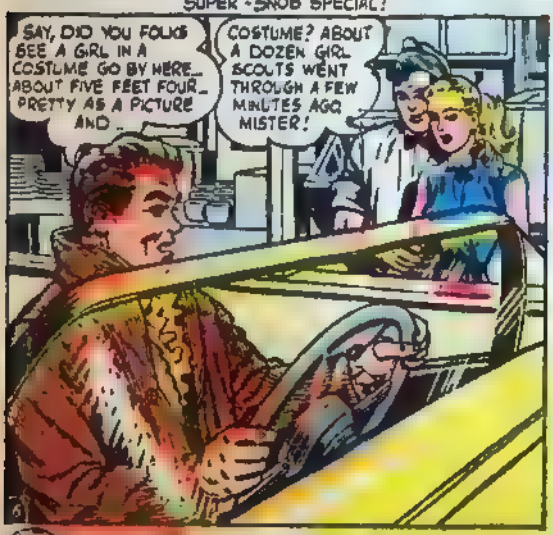
I OUGHT TO TOUCH EACH OF YOU WITH THE SAME MAGIC WAND, BUT IT WOULD NEVER TURN YOU INTO ANYTHING MORE THAN WHAT YOU ARE... SKUNKS!

I RAN OUT OF THE CLUBHOUSE AND THE FRESH AIR FELT GOOD AGAINST MY FACE! IN THE DISTANCE I COULD SEE THE CHEERY LIGHTS OF THE DRIVE-IN...

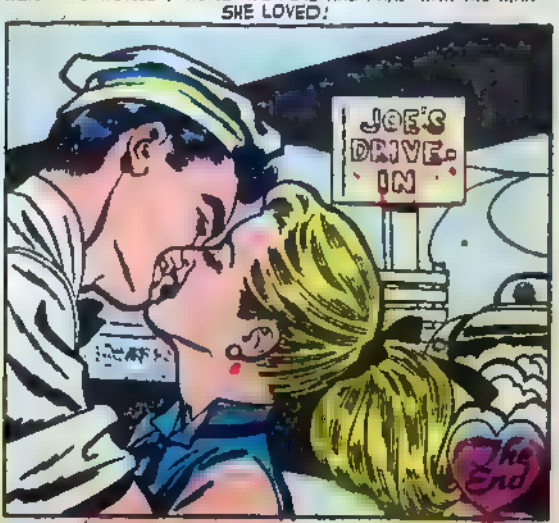
JOE WAS THERE WAITING, AND HE LOOKED GOOD TO ME: I NEVER REALIZED HOW MUCH I REALLY LOVED HIM UNTIL THAT MOMENT...

CLIMB INTO SOME SENSIBLE STUFF AND THEN TELL ME ABOUT IT! I'LL WHIP UP SOME DINNER FOR YOU, HONEY!
THANKS, JOE! YOU'RE AN ANGEL... AND I LOVE YOU!

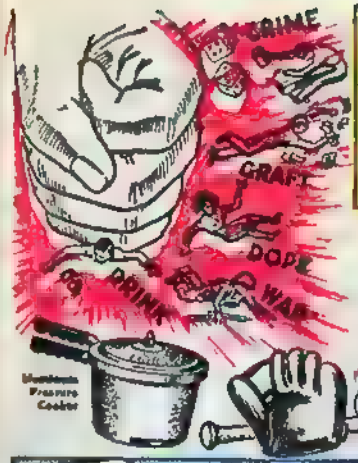
ABOUT TWENTY MINUTES LATER, CHIP BRIAN ROARED UP IN HIS SUPER-SNOB SPECIAL!


SAY, DID YOU FOLKS SEE A GIRL IN A COSTUME GO BY HERE... ABOUT FIVE FEET FOUR... PRETTY AS A PICTURE AND...
COSTUME? ABOUT A DOZEN GIRL SCOUTS WENT THROUGH A FEW MINUTES AGO MISTER!

THE MAGIC HOUR HAD PASSED AND CINDERELLA WAS BACK IN HER OWN WORLD AMONG THE POTS AND PANS WITH THE MAN SHE LOVED!



ATLAS
FOR THE BEST IN ROMANCE LOOK FOR THE ATLAS SEAL ON THE COVER!
ATLAS



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FIESTA

LAURA packed her bags wearily. It was not at all the kind of feeling to start a vacation with in sunny Mexico. But it didn't matter. Nothing mattered except to get out of New York, away from Mark, and away from the bitter memories of their shattered engagement.

Slowly and painfully fragments of their love affair crossed her numbed mind. She had been so sure that this time she would not be hurt and disappointed. But Mark had turned out like all the others. It became apparent that night at the Moonlight Room when he was, strangely again, short of funds and asked her for money to pay the check. He was interested in Laura Hanley's bank account and Laura Hanley herself only incidentally.

"I'm through," Laura thought with determination. "I just want to be left alone for the rest of my life. I'm tired of men with their false emotions, their million deceptions, their greed. Sick and tired." She slammed the last bag shut, locked it, and called for the bellboy.

He appeared bright and shining in the doorway of Laura's luxurious apartment in a matter of seconds.

"Going away again, Miss Hanley?" he queried with a wide grin

"Yes, Tommy, again," she sighed. "Hurry with those, will you? My plane leaves in fifteen minutes."

"Where to, Miss Hanley?" Tommy asked. Laura wanted to answer him abruptly, to tell him to stop asking his silly questions, but there was something in his eyes and voice that stopped her.

"To Mexico, Tommy. To lovely, romantic, scenic Mexico. That's what the travel folders say, don't they?"

"Yes'um. They sure do. Well, have a wonderful time, Miss Hanley!" Tommy grunted with the large bag, but he managed to balance all of them neatly under his arms. Laura blew him a kiss as the elevator moved away from her floor.

Laura couldn't remember whether the plane trip was long or short. She seemed simply not to exist until the hostess smiled at her and said,

"We've landed, Miss Hanley."

"Oh, yes," Laura answered vaguely. "So we have."

Mexico City was a hot, crowded jungle of people and buildings to Laura. She registered at a large hotel for the night. The next morning at sunrise, she would begin her journey into the mountains, to a little village her grandfather had told her about when she was a child. Here there would be no tourists, no fortune hunters, no unattached American men looking for a vacation romance. There would hardly be civilization among the poor, but hearty sheep herders. She thought of the peace and quiet with a deep longing.

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT STORY...

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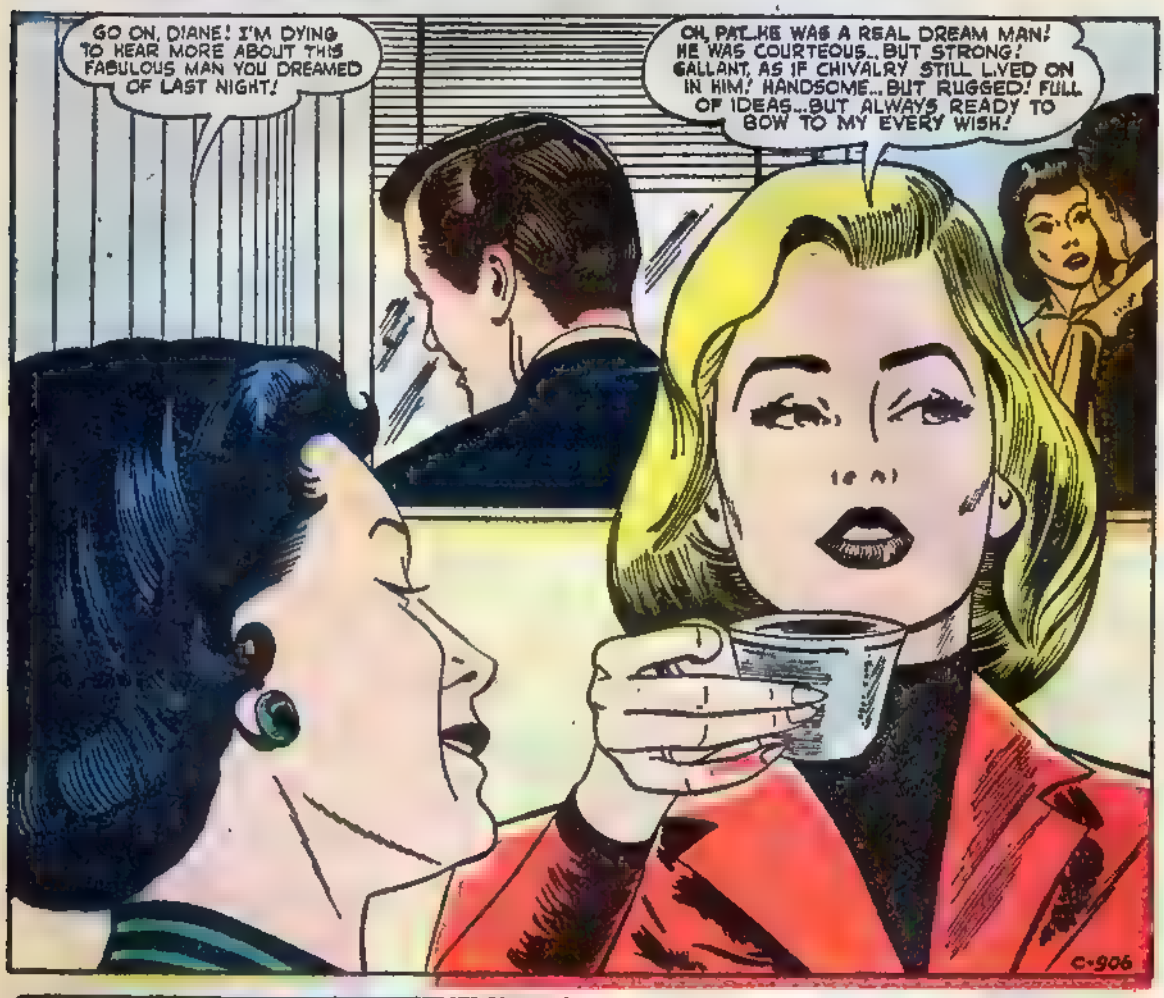
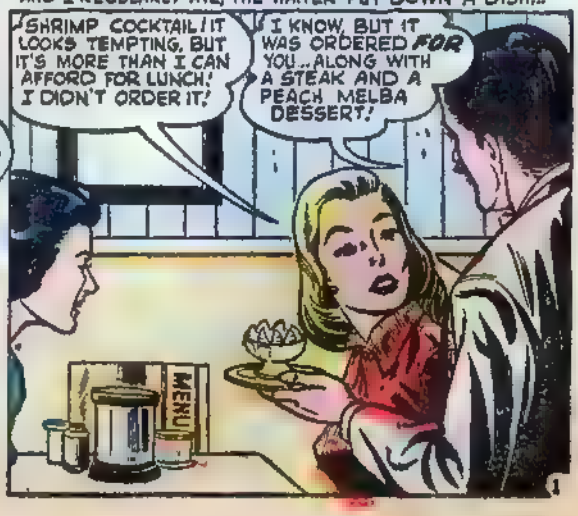
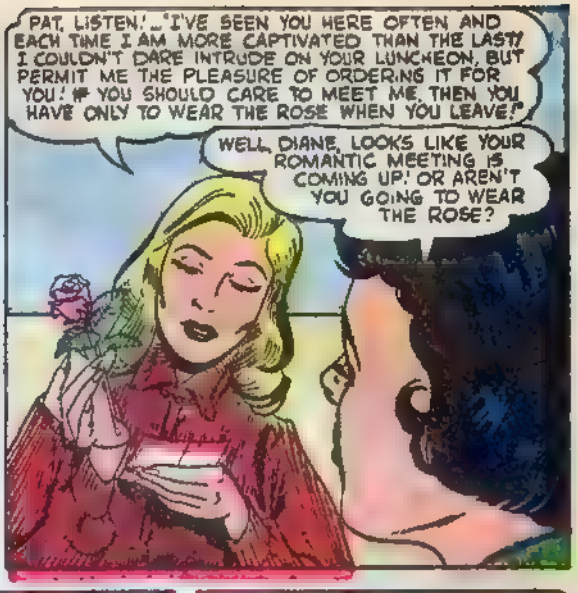
DIANE FINDS HER DREAM MAN


GO ON, DIANE! I'M DYING TO HEAR MORE ABOUT THIS FABULOUS MAN YOU DREAMED OF LAST NIGHT!
OH, PAT..HE WAS A REAL DREAM MAN! HE WAS COURTEOUS...BUT STRONG! GALLANT, AS IF CHIVALRY STILL LIVED ON IN HIM! HANDSOME...BUT RUGGED! FULL OF IDEAS...BUT ALWAYS READY TO BOW TO MY EVERY WISH!
C-906

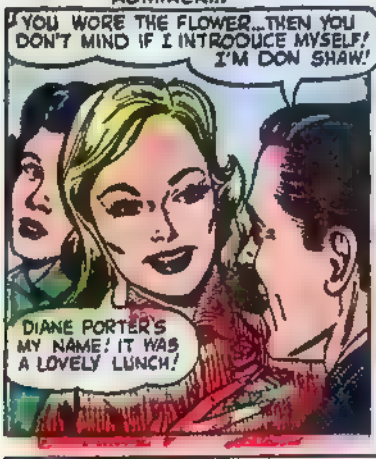
SOUNDS GREAT! IT'S A SHAME THEY DON'T MAKE MEN LIKE THAT ANY MORE!
I FORGET HOW WE MET IN MY DREAM, BUT I KNOW IT WAS IN A ROMANTIC WAY! (SIGH!) BUT I GUESS THE ONLY MEN I'LL EVER MEET ROMANTICALLY WILL BE IN DREAMS!

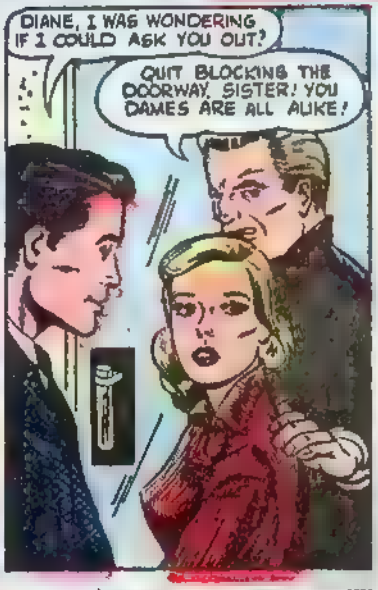
BUT THE NEXT DAY, I WAS IN FOR A SURPRISE! AS I SAT DOWN TO ORDER IN THE SMALL LUNCH ROOM WHERE PAT AND I REGULARLY ATE, THE WAITER PUT DOWN A DISH...


SHRIMP COCKTAIL! IT LOOKS TEMPTING, BUT IT'S MORE THAN I CAN AFFORD FOR LUNCH! I DION'T ORDER IT!
I KNOW, BUT IT WAS ORDERED FOR YOU...ALONG WITH A STEAK AND A PEACH MELBA DESSERT!
MENU

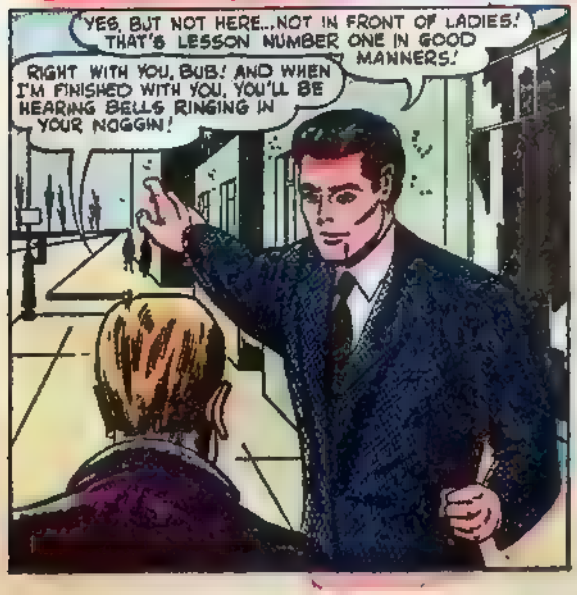

PAT, LISTEN!.."I'VE SEEN YOU HERE OFTEN AND EACH TIME I AM MORE CAPTIVATED THAN THE LAST! I COULDN'T DARE INTRUDE ON YOUR LUNCHEON, BUT PERMIT ME THE PLEASURE OF ORDERING IT FOR YOU! IF YOU SHOULD CARE TO MEET ME, THEN YOU HAVE ONLY TO WEAR THE ROSE WHEN YOU LEAVE!"
WELL, DIANE, LOOKS LIKE YOUR ROMANTIC MEETING IS COMING UP! OR AREN'T YOU GOING TO WEAR THE ROSE?

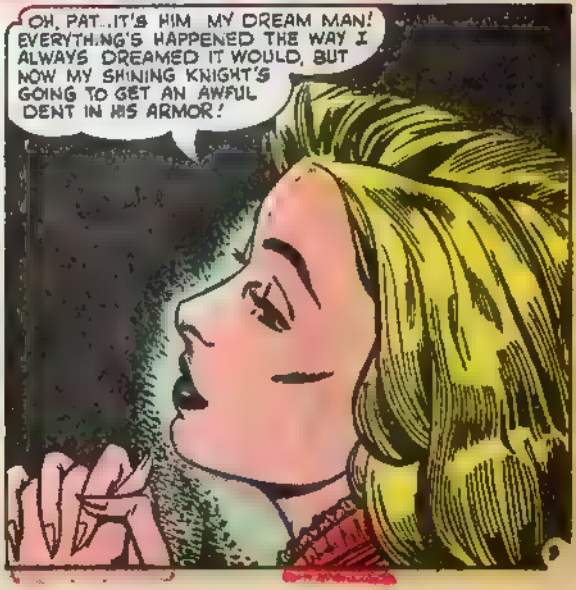
I TRIED TO ACT CASUAL AND PRETENDED TO PAT THAT I WAS COMPLETELY UNCONCERNED, BUT I FOUND MYSELF GULPING DOWN MY STEAK IN A HURRY, TO WEAR THE ROSE AND FIND MY MYSTERIOUS ADMIRER...





HOLD ON! I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOUR RUSH IS UNLESS YOU'RE LATE FOR A CLASS IN MANNERS!
A WISE GUY, EH? MAYBE YOU WOULD LIKE TO TRY INSTRUCTING ME?


YES, BUT NOT HERE...NOT IN FRONT OF LADIES! THAT'S LESSON NUMBER ONE IN GOOD MANNERS!
RIGHT WITH YOU, BUB! AND WHEN I'M FINISHED WITH YOU, YOU'LL BE HEARING BELLS RINGING IN YOUR NOGGIN!


OH, PAT..IT'S HIM MY DREAM MAN! EVERYTHING'S HAPPENED THE WAY I ALWAYS DREAMED IT WOULD, BUT NOW MY SHINING KNIGHT'S GOING TO GET AN AWFUL DENT IN HIS ARMOR!

AN ANXIOUS MINUTE OR TWO TICKED SLOWLY BY AND THEN...

DON! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

YES, THANKS! BUT I'D FEEL A LOT BETTER IF I KNEW YOU'D BE GOING OUT WITH ME TOMORROW NIGHT, DIANE!

WITH AN EAGER HEART, I COUNTED THE HOURS UNTIL DON CALLED FOR ME AND TOOK ME TO A CANDLE-LIT DINING SPOT...

OH, DON, MY FAVORITE SONG! BUT HOW DID YOU KNOW?

I ASKED PAT! I'D HOPED IT WOULD PLEASE YOU, DIANE!

THERE HAD NEVER BEEN A MAN IN MY LIFE QUITE LIKE DON! HE HAD COURTESY, CHARM, WIT, AND SEEMED ABLE TO DO ANYTHING!

DON, A TANGO! I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO DANCE IT, BUT I'VE NEVER HAD A PARTNER WHO COULD!

ALL MY DREAMS CAME TRUE IN DON! WHEN WE MADE A DATE, HE ALWAYS ASKED ME WHAT I WANTED TO DO! I FELT LIKE THE MOST IMPORTANT PERSON IN THE WORLD AND PERHAPS I LIKED MAKING DECISIONS EVEN IF DON DIDN'T ENJOY MY CHOICE...

DIANE, THERE'S A SWELL TRACK MEET COMING UP SATURDAY AND I THOUGHT...

NO, NOT SATURDAY, DON! THE NEW BALLET'S COMING TO TOWN! LET'S GO TO IT!

CERTAINLY! I'LL GET THE TICKETS TOMORROW! IF YOU'LL BE HAPPIER AT THE BALLET, THEN I'LL ENJOY KNOWING YOU'RE PLEASED!

YOU'RE SO SWEET! YOU MAKE ME BELIEVE YOU REALLY DON'T MIND GOING!

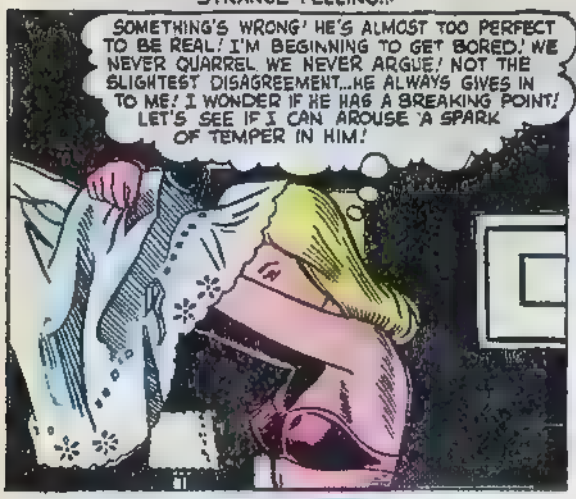
BUT HIS BOWING TO MY WILL EVERY TIME SEEMED ALMOST EXCESSIVE AND HIS ABSOLUTE GOOD MANNERS WORRIED ME...

THE DOOR'S OPEN, DIANE! THE BALLET WAS EXCELLENT AND SO WAS THE COMPANY!

THIS IS OUR SEVENTH DATE... I WONDER IF HE'LL KISS ME TONIGHT, OR IF HE'S TOO POLITE TO EVEN TRY?

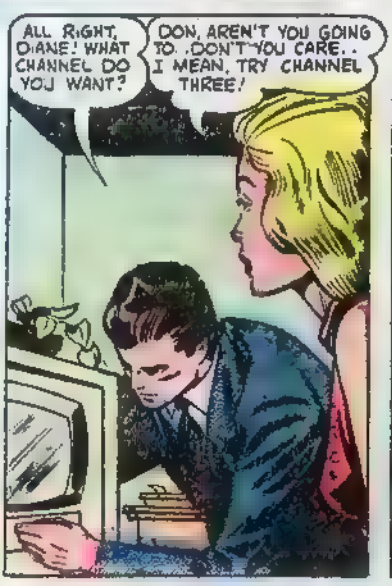
BUT MY THOUGHTS WERE ANSWERED WITH THE SUDDEN FIRM, WARM PRESSURE OF DON'S LIPS ON MINE, AS MY HEART THRILLED TO THE KISS ONLY A REAL AND NOT A DREAM MAN COULD GIVE ME...

WE SOON BEGAN DATING ALMOST STEADILY! HIS KISSES EXCITED ME, HIS MANNERS AND POLITENESS ELEVATED ME ONTO A DIZZY PEDESTAL, BUT STILL I HAD A STRANGE FEELING..


SOMETHING'S WRONG! HE'S ALMOST TOO PERFECT TO BE REAL! I'M BEGINNING TO GET BORED! WE NEVER QUARREL WE NEVER ARGUE! NOT THE SLIGHTEST DISAGREEMENT...HE ALWAYS GIVES IN TO ME! I WONDER IF HE HAS A BREAKING POINT! LET'S SEE IF I CAN AROUSE A SPARK OF TEMPER IN HIM!

AND THE NEXT NIGHT, MY CHANCE CAME...

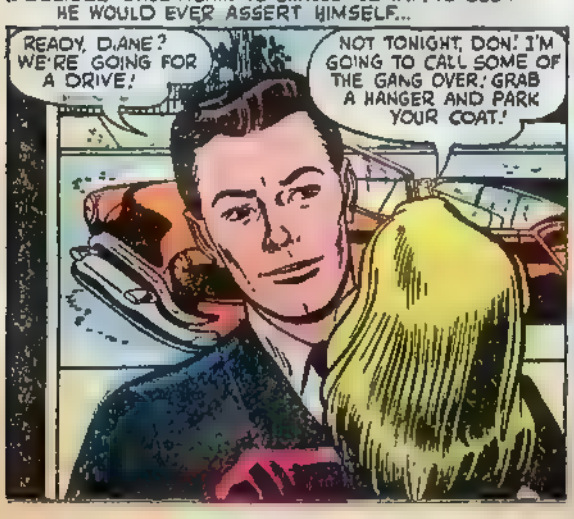
HERE ARE TICKETS FOR THE NEW HIT SHOW, DIANE! I WAS LUCKY TO GET THEM! LET'S GET YOUR COAT AND GO!
ER-NO, DON!...I DON'T FEEL LIKE GOING TO THE THEATRE TONIGHT! LET'S STAY HOME AND WATCH T.V.!

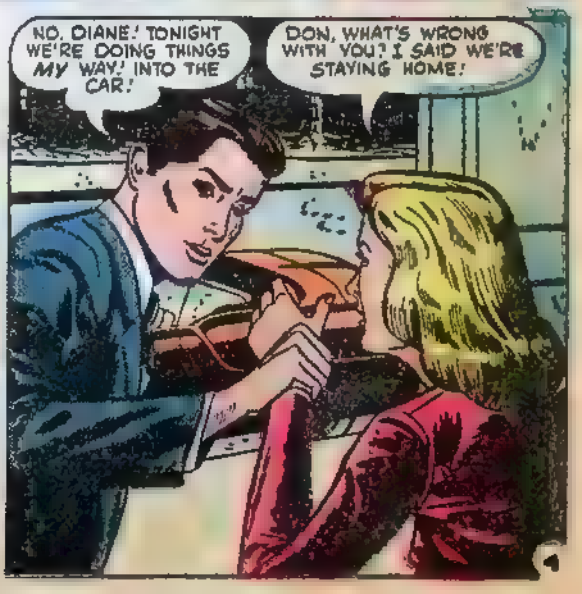


LATER WHEN DON LEFT, MY HEART WAS HEAVY WITH DOUBTS..

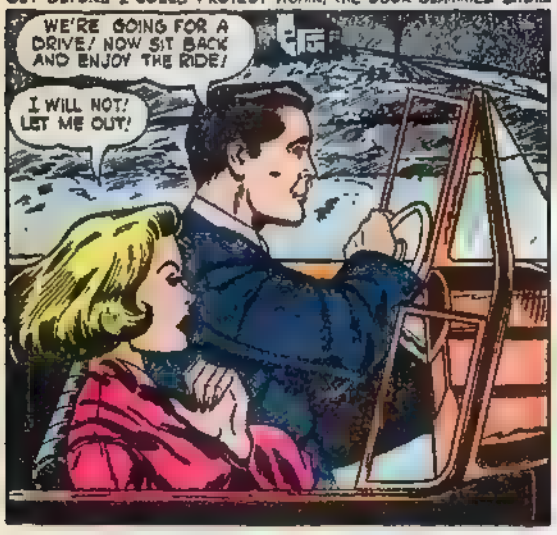
HE LOVES ME..I KNOW HE DOES FROM THE WAY HE ACTS...MAYBE THAT'S WHY HE ALWAYS LETS ME HAVE THINGS MY WAY! BUT THEN WHAT AM I UNHAPPY ABOUT? HE IS EXACTLY LIKE MY DREAM MAN! MAYBE THAT'S IT..HE'S TOO MUCH LIKE HIM TO BE REAL!

AND TWO NIGHTS LATER, WHEN DON CALLED FOR ME, I SENSED A STRANGE DETERMINATION IN HIS MANNER AND I DECIDED ONCE AGAIN TO CHALLENGE HIM, TO SEE IF HE WOULD EVER ASSERT HIMSELF...

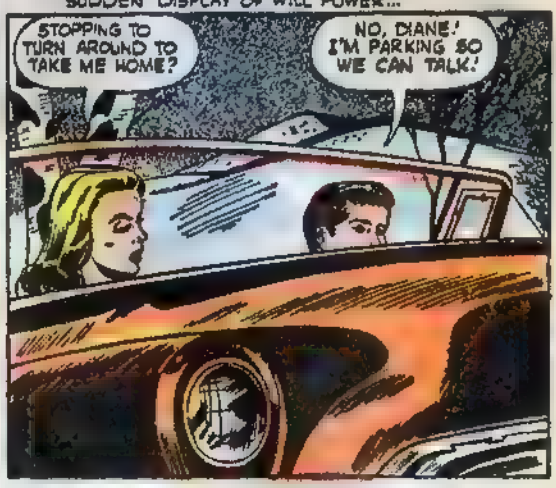




BUT BEFORE I COULD PROTEST AGAIN, THE DOOR SLAMMED SHUT...

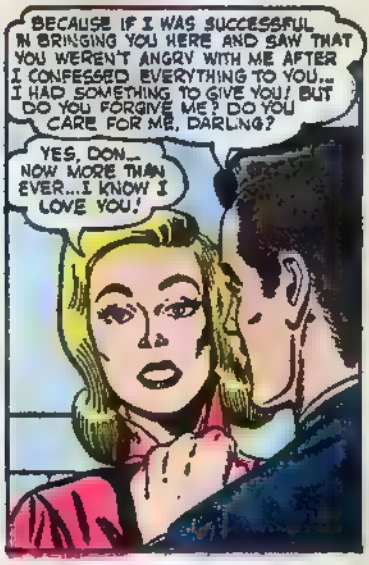


AS THE CAR RACED OFF, I WAS SECRETLY THRILLED, WHILE I MADE A FEEBLE SHOW OF SLOWLY VANISHING ANGER, WONDERING ALL THE TIME WHY DON HAD MADE SUCH A SUDDEN DISPLAY OF WILL POWER...



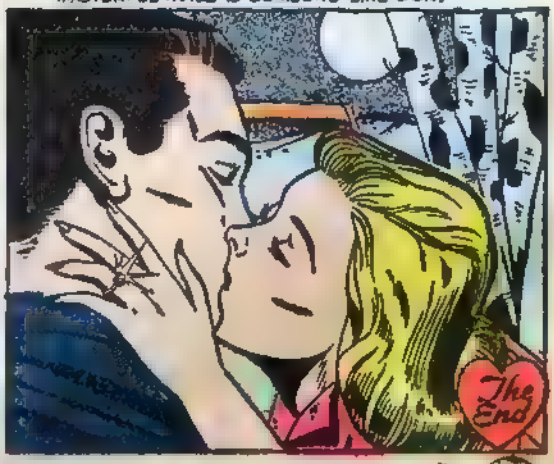
I'VE GOT A CONFESSION TO MAKE! WHEN YOU TOLD PAT OF YOUR DREAM MAN, I WAS IN THE NEXT BOOTH AND OVERHEARD IT ALL! I ARRANGED THE ROMANTIC MEETING, STAGED THE PHONY FIGHT, HOPING TO DATE YOU ON A LARK! BUT ONCE I DID, I WAS SOON HOPELESSLY IN LOVE!

BUT THE ACT OF ABSOLUTE, SLAVISH OBEDIENCE TO YOUR WHIMS BEGAN TO WEAR ON ME! I WANTED TO PLEASE YOU AND ALWAYS WILL, BUT A MAN LIKES TO HAVE HIS WAY ONCE IN A WHILE!
LIKE TONIGHT? WHY'D YOU SUDDENLY DECIDE TO HAVE YOUR WAY TONIGHT?


BECAUSE IF I WAS SUCCESSFUL IN BRINGING YOU HERE AND SAW THAT YOU WEREN'T ANGRY WITH ME AFTER I CONFESSED EVERYTHING TO YOU... I HAD SOMETHING TO GIVE YOU! BUT DO YOU FORGIVE ME? DO YOU CARE FOR ME, DARLING?
YES, DON... NOW MORE THAN EVER... I KNOW I LOVE YOU!

THEN THERE'S WHAT I WANTED TO OFFER YOU TONIGHT AND HOPED YOU'D WEAR IT... FOREVER!
OH, DARLING... IT'S BEAUTIFUL! I'LL BE PROUD AND HAPPY TO BE YOUR WIFE!

AND AS DON SLIPPED THE ENGAGEMENT RING ON MY TREMBLING FINGER, I REALIZED HOW MUCH MORE WONDERFUL HE WAS THAN MY DREAM MAN, FOR A GIRL LIKES TO BE DOMINATED OCCASIONALLY, ESPECIALLY WHEN THE MASTERFUL MALE IS SOMEONE LIKE DON!



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PLAY PIANO THE FIRST DAY.. OR DON'T PAY!

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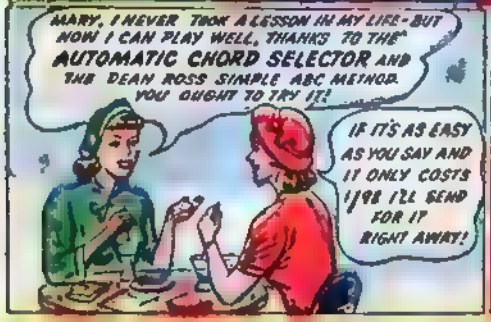
I'M CERTAINLY MISSING A LOT OF FUN, AND DATES, TOO. IF I COULD ONLY PLAY THE PIANO THE WAY BETTY DOES. 'WONDER HOW SHE LEARNED SO FAST? I'LL ASK HER THE FIRST CHANCE I GET.


MARY, I NEVER TOOK A LESSON IN MY LIFE - BUT NOW I CAN PLAY WELL, THANKS TO THE AUTOMATIC CHORD SELECTOR AND THE DEAN ROSS SIMPLE ABC METHOD. YOU OUGHT TO TRY IT!
IF IT'S AS EASY AS YOU SAY AND IT ONLY COSTS $1.98 I'LL SEND FOR IT RIGHT AWAY!

"I learned to play a song in 10 minutes."
—A.S., Washington

"Even if one never played a note it is easy."
—C.C.M., New Hampshire

"Now I can play about music beautifully."
—E.S., New York

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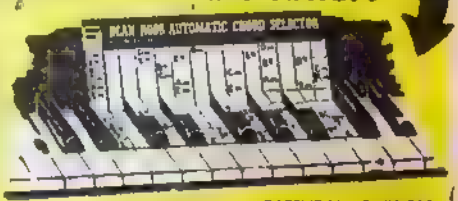
YOU, too, can play piano with BOTH hands, in no time at all! Thousands have learned to play this fast, easy way. With the amazing, new invention, the AUTOMATIC CHORD SELECTOR there's really nothing to it. Before long you're playing songs everyone enjoys . . . from Hit Parade numbers and hymns to beautiful old [illegible].

This is no trick method. You actually learn to read and play any sheet music. And, the patented AUTOMATIC CHORD SELECTOR guides your fingers every note of the way. No scales, no exercises, no dreary practicing. You actually play the minute you sit down at the piano. You gain ease, assurance and a professional style as you go through the 30 lessons and 40 songs.

Instead of paying the studio charge of $5 a lesson, you can enjoy the 30 lessons, $150 worth, in the privacy of your home for just $1.98. The Dean Ross Piano Course can open up a whole new world of happiness. Now you can be the "hit" of every party . . . the center of attraction wherever you go. Don't delay another minute, mail the FREE-TRIAL Coupon NOW!

NO SCALES!
NO EXERCISES!
YOU PLAY INSTANTLY!



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You have 10 full days to prove to yourself the value of the Dean Ross Piano method. When the complete course with its 30 clearly illustrated lessons (worth $150 at the studio) and 40 favorite songs, together with the patented AUTOMATIC CHORD SELECTOR is delivered, pay postman just $1.98 plus postage. Try the course for 10 days with the understanding that you must learn to play with both hands or your full purchase price will be refunded at once. The patented AUTOMATIC CHORD SELECTOR is yours to keep in any event. You have nothing to lose . and popularity and fun to gain, so mail coupon today!

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...CONTINUED

It took many hours and many narrow mule trails to reach the village of Tuluca. Toward evening, the low thatched roofs of the huts appeared, dotting the hillsides like overgrown mushrooms. Dirty, hot and tired, her short blond hair blown into a thousand wisps about her face, Laura entered the small, white house her grandfather built many years ago.

Mica, the Indian caretaker, greeted her with a broad smile.

"The rooms are ready," he said, pronouncing each word distinctly.

"Thank you, Mica. Thank you very much. It was such short notice. I'm sorry." Laura returned the old man's smile. She had never seen him before, but she knew immediately they would be friends.

"Tomorrow is fiesta. It will be a very happy day," Mica said, parting the curtains to cool the house with the evening air.

"Oh, no!" Laura cried involuntarily. "There will be people."

"Yes, many will come from near-by villages to celebrate. And the young painter, too."

"Young painter?" Laura asked.

"Mr. Rollins. All day long he sits with a brush to paint our people. He is well liked among us—he does not intrude." Mica smiled to himself. Mr. Rollins would be surprised to find the beautiful girl tomorrow. "Good night, Miss Hanley. If you want Mica during the night, ring this bell." He handed Laura a small silver bell he had wrought himself.

Laura was awakened by the sound of music and laughter near her window early. She raised the blinds and through a haze of sleepiness saw a tall, suntanned man with ten children or more gathered about him. He was strumming a guitar and singing as the children clapped their hands to the definite Spanish rhythms.

"Well, of all the . . ." Laura threw a light coat over her nightgown and ran down the stairs.

"Would you mind moving that racket away from my window. It's only seven o'clock, you know," she said to the strange pied piper.

Rollins looked up from his guitar, glanced at Laura disinterestedly and continued to play.

"I said," Laura began.

"Yes, I heard you the first time," Rollins replied, placing his guitar gently on the ground by his side. "I judge you're Laura Hanley, the "lady" of this grotesque building, and as such you should be introduced to the customs of our fair community. This is fiesta. The good women of Tuluca are up bright and early baking bread for the feast. If you have a kitchen, you ought to be in it, or don't New York heiresses eat?"

Laura was so stunned for a moment, she couldn't speak. Although this man was insulting her, she was more attracted than offended. He was, by all odds, the most handsome six feet two inches of masculinity she had ever seen. But more important, he was not soliciting her favor because she was Laura Hanley. Laura knew she could have been a queen or a chorus girl and he would have treated her exactly the same way.

"Im sorry. I was acting like a typical American tourist, wasn't I?" Laura apologized.

"Yes, you were," Gregory Rollins replied. "Here, have a cigarette, then I'll come in and make some coffee as soon as I've finished this tune for the kids."

"I'll make the coffee. I make very good coffee," Laura insisted. She smiled then, her resolutions about men and romance fading quickly before Rollins' intense brown eyes.

Greg Rollins came into the kitchen carrying two large grapefruit in either hand. He dumped them on the table and went over to the stove, sniffing into the spout of the coffee pot.

"Smells good. Where'd you learn to make coffee?" he asked, looking at Laura from head to toe. "You're a pretty amazing debutante."

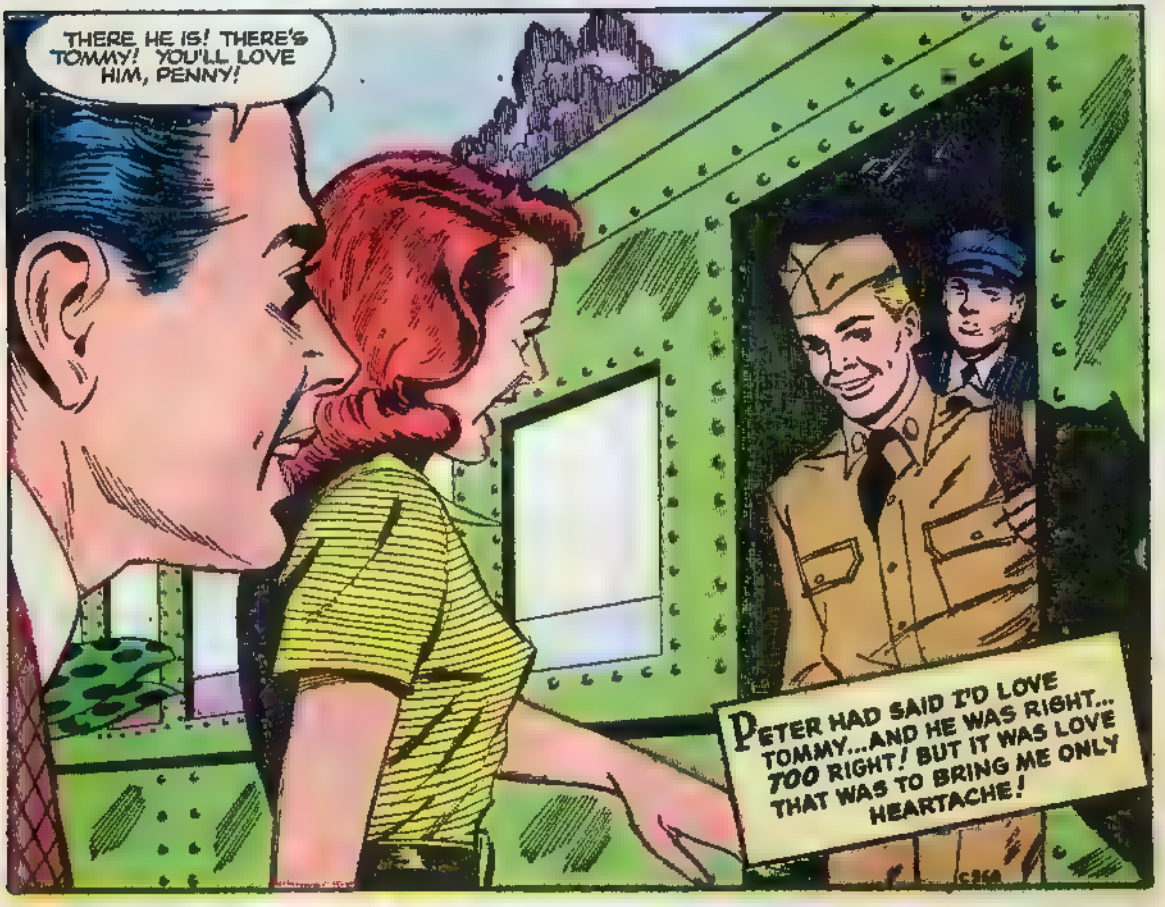
"Like all the others. Dull, witless, bad manners, spoiled . . . except I can make coffee."

"I like you," Greg said simply, blowing at a strand of pale hair over Laura's flushed forehead.

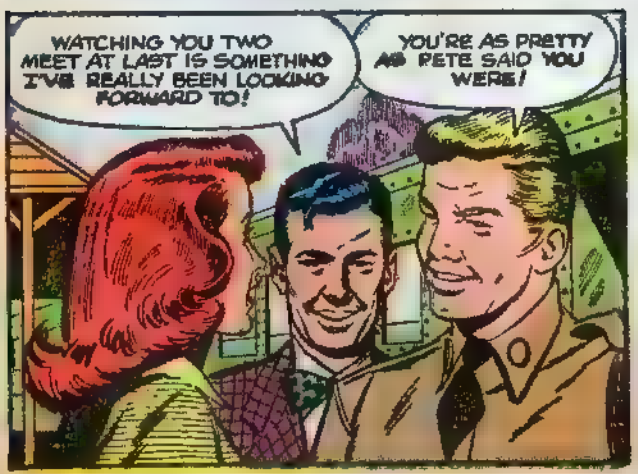
"I trust you," Laura answered and she knew at last with those few words she had found the man she would love all of her life.

THE END D-91

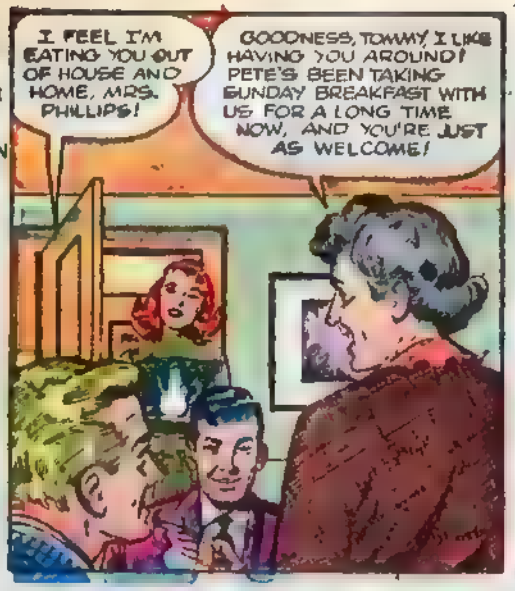
I LOVE YOU TOO MUCH


THERE HE IS! THERE'S TOMMY! YOU'LL LOVE HIM, PENNY!
PETER HAD SAID I'D LOVE TOMMY...AND HE WAS RIGHT... TOO RIGHT! BUT IT WAS LOVE THAT WAS TO BRING ME ONLY HEARTACHE!

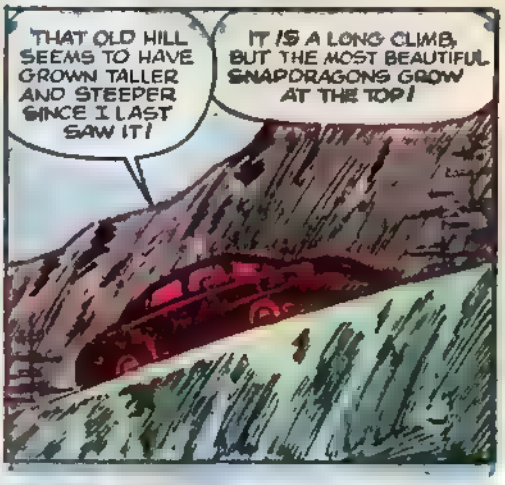
AS TOMMY AND I SHOOK HANDS, I COULD SEE WHY PETE WAS SO FOND OF HIM! THERE WAS STRENGTH IN HIS EYES, BUT WARMTH AND HONESTY TOO...AND YOU COULD TELL IMMEDIATELY THAT HERE WAS A MAN WHO WAS A REAL FRIEND...



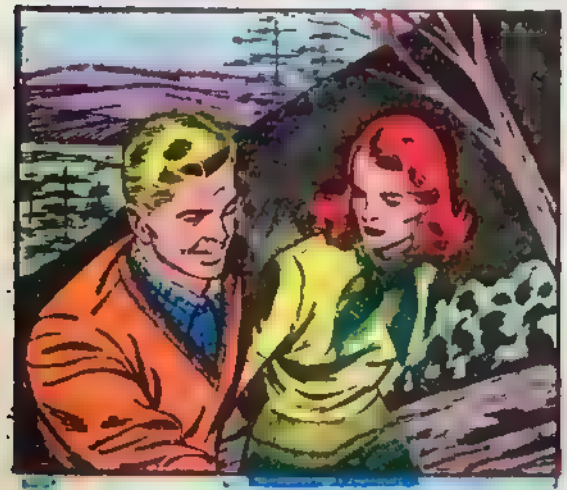
FOR THE NEXT WEEK, EVERYWHERE THAT PETE AND I WENT...AND IN EVERYTHING WE DID... TOMMY JOINED US! I DIDN'T MIND THOUGH, NOT ONLY BECAUSE IT MADE PETE HAPPY, BUT BECAUSE, EACH DAY, I LIKED TOMMY MORE AND MORE MYSELF...


I FEEL I'M EATING YOU OUT OF HOUSE AND HOME, MRS. PHILLIPS!
GOODNESS, TOMMY, I LIKE HAVING YOU AROUND! PETE'S BEEN TAKING SUNDAY BREAKFAST WITH US FOR A LONG TIME NOW, AND YOU'RE JUST AS WELCOME!

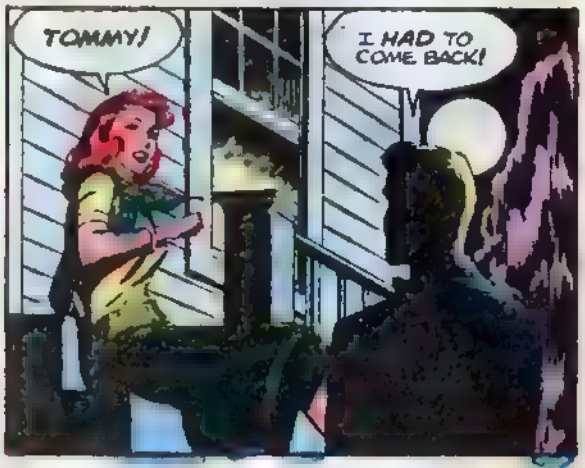
I'LL ALWAYS REMEMBER THAT PARTICULAR SUNDAY BECAUSE IT WAS THE DAY THAT EVERYTHING STARTED! WE DECIDED TO TAKE A RIDE TO KNOBBY HILL, A BEAUTIFUL SPOT ABOUT TEN MILES FROM TOWN...


THAT OLD HILL SEEMS TO HAVE GROWN TALLER AND STEEPER SINCE I LAST SAW IT!
IT IS A LONG CLIMB, BUT THE MOST BEAUTIFUL SNAPDRAGONS GROW AT THE TOP!

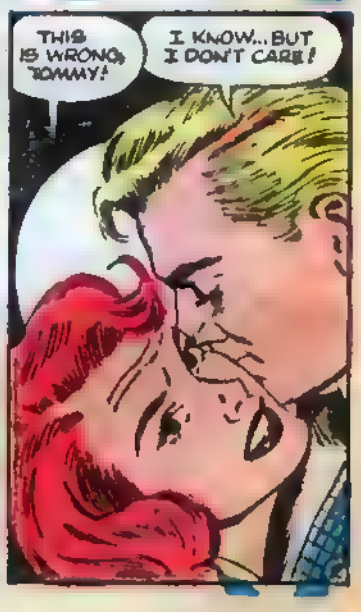
WE BEGAN CLIMBING HAND IN HAND! SUDDENLY PETE RAN ON AHEAD, AND LEFT ME HOLDING TOMMY'S HAND! INSTANTLY I WAS AWARE OF HIS FINGERS GRIPPING MINE, MAKING THEM TINGLE...



WE JOINED PETE AND I TRIED TO FORGET THE INCIDENT, BUT I COULDN'T! IT STAYED WITH ME ALL DAY! AND LATE THAT EVENING AFTER BOTH BOYS HAD GONE HOME, I WAS SITTING ON OUR PORCH STEPS, WHEN...

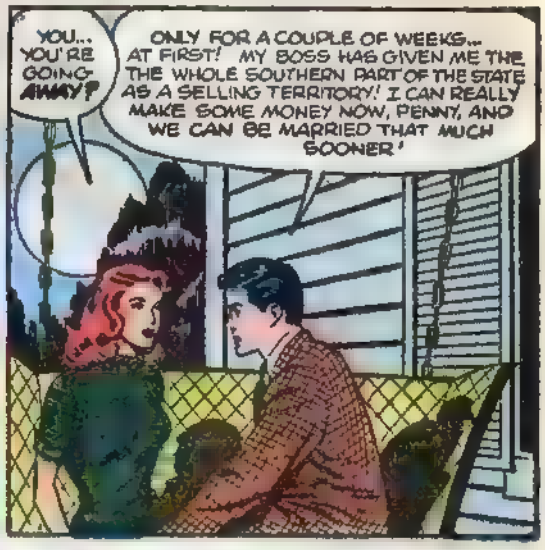


THEN IT HAPPENED! HIS ARMS AROUND ME, HIS LIPS BRUSHING LIGHTLY AGAINST MY CHEEK, FINDING MY MOUTH, PRESSING DOWN HARD...THRILLING ME AS I'D NEVER DREAMED POSSIBLE...

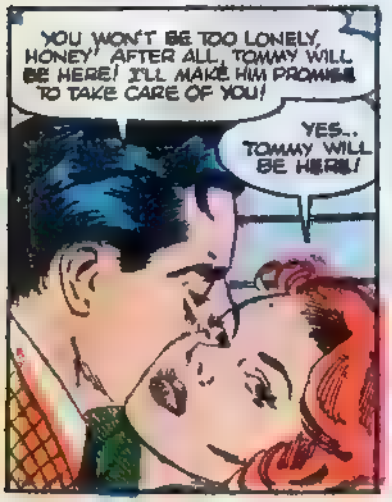


I MADE TOMMY GO HOME, BUT IF I THOUGHT THAT COULD MAKE ME FORGET WHAT HAD HAPPENED, I WAS WRONG! I COULD STILL FEEL THE PRESSURE OF HIS LIPS WHEN I AWOKE IN THE MORNING, AND ALL DURING THE DAY AT WORK IN THE DIME STORE...

THAT EVENING, PETE HAD SURPRISING NEWS FOR ME!


YOU... YOU'RE GOING AWAY?
ONLY FOR A COUPLE OF WEEKS... AT FIRST! MY BOSS HAS GIVEN ME THE THE WHOLE SOUTHERN PART OF THE STATE AS A SELLING TERRITORY! I CAN REALLY MAKE SOME MONEY NOW, PENNY, AND WE CAN BE MARRIED THAT MUCH SOONER!

I DIDN'T WANT HIM TO GO! I WAS SCARED OF WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN WHILE HE WAS GONE!

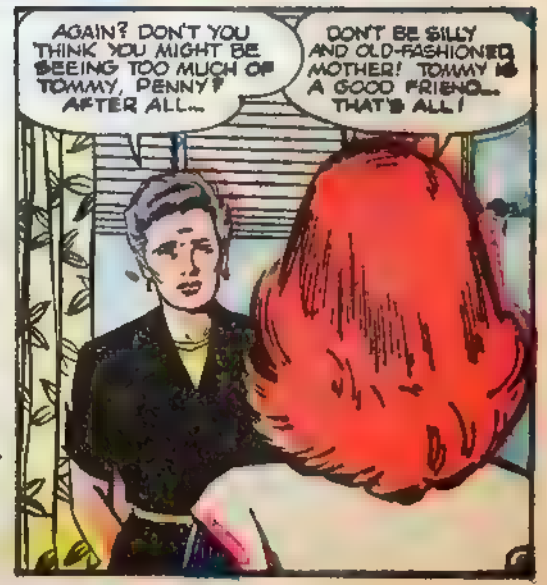


AND AFTER PETE WAS GONE, TOMMY WAS THERE! AT FIRST, I TRIED TO PRETEND THAT KISS HADN'T HAPPENED...

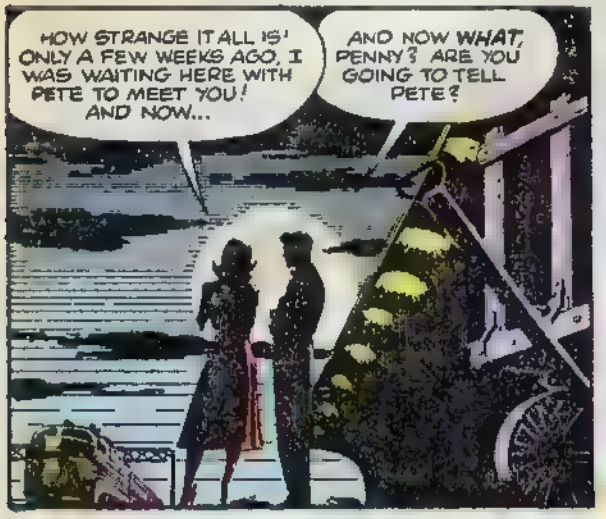
BUT AFTER A LITTLE WHILE, OUR HANDS WERE CLASPED TOGETHER AND I DIDN'T REALIZE IT! IT SEEMED SO NATURAL...

AND AS WE WALKED HOME AFTERWARDS...

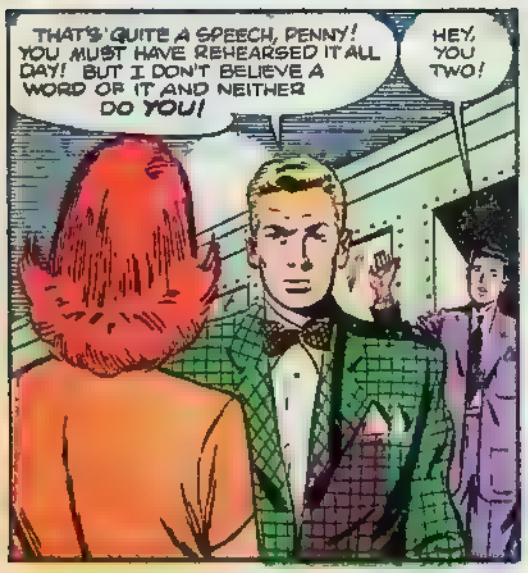
WE SAW EACH OTHER FOUR TIMES THAT FIRST WEEK! EACH TIME WE SAID GOOD NIGHT, I TRIED TO TURN DOWN HIS REQUEST FOR ANOTHER DATE, BUT I COULDN'T... I JUST WASN'T STRONG ENOUGH!


AGAIN? DON'T YOU THINK YOU MIGHT BE SEEING TOO MUCH OF TOMMY, PENNY? AFTER ALL...
DON'T BE SILLY AND OLD-FASHIONED, MOTHER! TOMMY IS A GOOD FRIEND... THAT'S ALL!

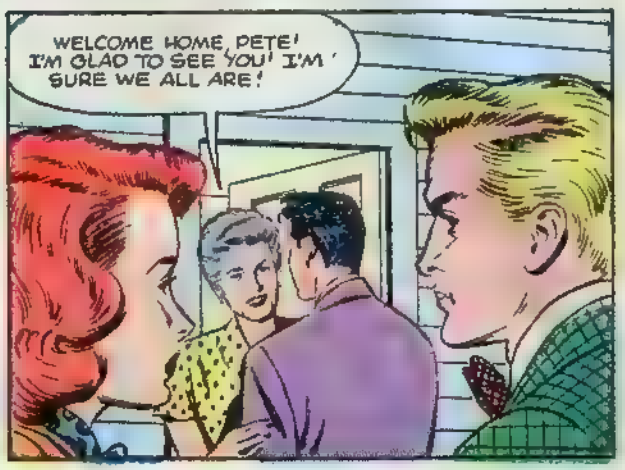
BUT I FELT GUILTY, AND WAS SURE MOTHER KNEW IT! THEN PETE CAME HOME AND TOMMY AND I WENT TO MEET HIM..


HOW STRANGE IT ALL IS! ONLY A FEW WEEKS AGO, I WAS WAITING HERE WITH PETE TO MEET YOU! AND NOW...
AND NOW WHAT, PENNY? ARE YOU GOING TO TELL PETE?

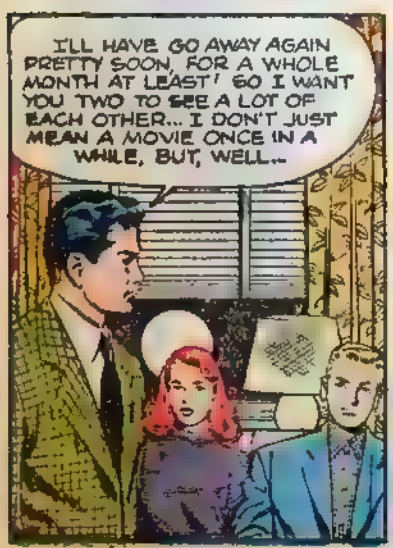
THERE'S NOTHING TO TELL HIM! A COUPLE OF KISSES...A COUPLE OF DATES! I..I LOVE PETE, TOMMY! ANYWAY, I'M PRACTICALLY ENGAGED TO HIM..I WON'T HURT HIM!



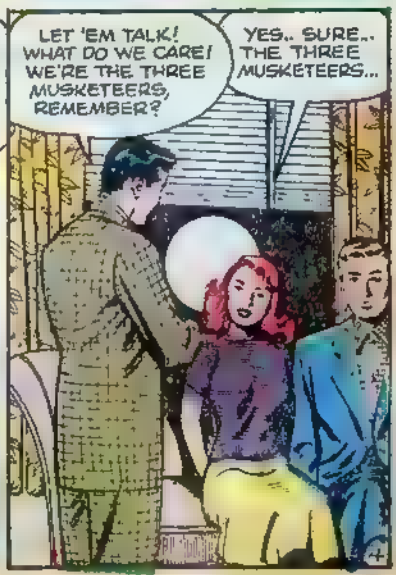
ALMOST AS SOON AS THE THREE OF US WENT HOME TO ONE OF MOTHER'S DINNERS, I SENSED SOMETHING STRANGE ABOUT PETE'S BEHAVIOR! I GASPED INWARDLY! HAD HE GUESSED? WAS THERE SOMETHING ABOUT ME... ABOUT TOMMY...THAT GAVE US AWAY...



LATER THAT EVENING..


I'LL HAVE TO GO AWAY AGAIN PRETTY SOON, FOR A WHOLE MONTH AT LEAST! SO I WANT YOU TWO TO SEE A LOT OF EACH OTHER... I DON'T JUST MEAN A MOVIE ONCE IN A WHILE, BUT, WELL...

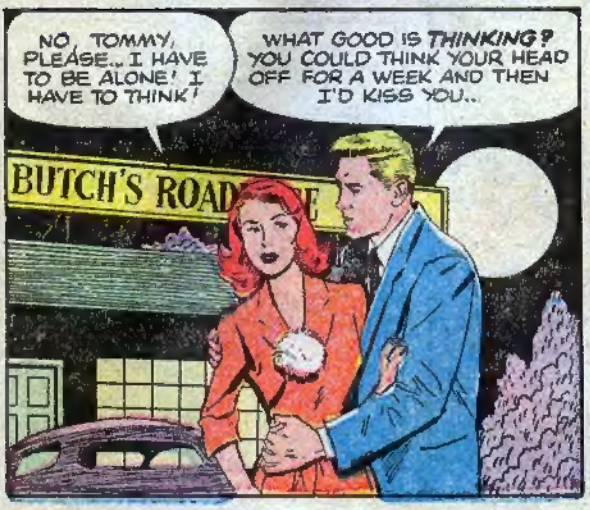
...AS IF YOU WERE TAKING MY PLACE, TOMMY! I DON'T WANT PENNY TO BE LONELY!
AREN'T YOU AFRAID PEOPLE MIGHT START GOSSIPING, PETE? THEY DO, YOU KNOW!



IT WAS AS IF PETE WERE DELIBERATELY THROWING US TOGETHER! AS IF HE WAS HOPING THAT WHAT HAD ALREADY HAPPENED WOULD HAPPEN! HE LEFT A FEW DAYS LATER, AND THAT EVENING TOMMY AND I HAD DINNER AT A ROADHOUSE OUTSIDE OF TOWN...

PETE BOUGHT THESE TWO TICKETS FOR THAT SHOW FOR US! HE ALSO RESERVED A COUPLE OF PLACES ON THE RIVER EXCURSION STEAMER FOR NEXT SATURDAY NIGHT!
I CAN'T JUST UNDERSTAND IT, TOMMY!

GUILT AND DESPAIR SUDDENLY OVERWHELMED ME, AND TRYING TO HOLD BACK THE TEARS, I RUSHED FROM THE ROADHOUSE! TOMMY CAUGHT UP WITH ME...


NO, TOMMY, PLEASE.. I HAVE TO BE ALONE! I HAVE TO THINK!
WHAT GOOD IS THINKING? YOU COULD THINK YOUR HEAD OFF FOR A WEEK AND THEN I'D KISS YOU..
BUTCH'S ROAD

I LAY AWAKE THAT NIGHT, DESPERATELY SEARCHING MY HEART, ARGUING WITH MYSELF, TRYING TO TAKE BOTH SIDES! AT LAST, WEARILY, I CAME TO A DECISION...

I WROTE A NOTE TO TOMMY, AND HE RESPECTED MY PLEAS! HE DIDN'T TRY TO SEE ME OR EVEN CALL, AND THE NEXT FEW WEEKS WERE TORTURE! THEN PETE CAME HOME AND I HAD TO MAKE UP A STORY...

IT'S JUST THAT WE SUDDENLY BEGAN ARGUING ALL THE TIME! FINALLY WE JUST DECIDED THAT WE REALLY DIDN'T LIKE EACH OTHER... WE HAD NOTHING IN COMMON! SO...

...SO WE JUST DECIDED NOT TO BE FRIENDS ANY MORE, THAT'S ALL! AND IF YOU LOVE ME, YOU WON'T MAKE ME SEE HIM, PETE! I SHOULD BE MORE IMPORTANT TO YOU THAN HE IS!
BUT THE TROUBLE IS...I DON'T LOVE YOU, PENNY!

THAT'S WHY I TRIED TO THROW YOU AND TOMMY TOGETHER SO MUCH! I WAS HOPING YOU'D FALL IN LOVE WITH EACH OTHER! I KNEW IT WAS A ROTTEN TRICK, BUT I DIDN'T WANT TO HURT YOU AND NOW I HAVE!
SO THAT'S WHY YOU ACTED SO STRANGELY WHEN YOU FIRST CAME BACK!

THEN, WEEPING WITH HAPPINESS, I TOLD HIM THE TRUTH, THREW MY ARMS AROUND HIM, KISSED HIM, AND RACED OFF DOWN THE STREET...

I FOUND TOMMY AT THE MACHINE SHOP WHERE HE WORKED AND IGNORING THE LAUGHTER OF THE OTHER MEN AROUND US, I THREW MYSELF INTO HIS ARMS, POURING OUT THE GOOD NEWS...

AND IT WAS! OUR FIRST KISS AFTER SO MANY LONG, EMPTY, HEARTBREAKING DAYS TOLD US THAT EVERYTHING WAS ALL RIGHT, AND WOULD BE, FROM THEN ON!

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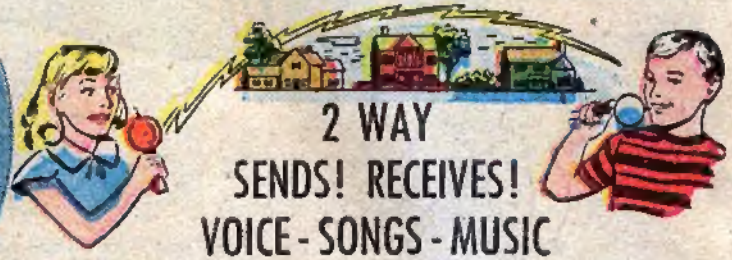
2 PHONES ONLY $1



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